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NEVADA WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT OF 1987

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDREDTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

S. 1138

TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN LANDS IN THE STATE OF NEVADA AS WILDERNESS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

AUGUST 4, 1987

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NEVADA WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT OF 1987

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1987

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,
NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:15 a.m., in room SD-366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Dale Bumpers presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. DALE BUMPERS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Senator BUMPERS. The subcommittee will come to order. The purpose of the hearing this morning is to receive testimony on S. 1138, the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1987. This measure was introduced by Senator Reid on May 6, 1987. S. 1138 is similar to a measure which passed the House last year, H.R. 3302, which was not considered in the Senate.

It is my understanding that Congresswoman Vucanovich, Congressman Bilbray and Congressman Darden of Georgia have introduced Nevada wilderness bills in the House. While no other action has been taken on these measures, I understand that Congressman Vento is planning a field inspection of some of these areas during the August recess.

I am aware that there is considerable controversy surrounding the issue of wilderness designation in the State of Nevada. Almost 500 witnesses appeared at the subcommittee's field hearing in Nevada on Senator Hecht's proposal in the 99th Congress. Today we have 20 witnesses, mostly from Nevada, who have come to express their views on wilderness in their state.

I can assure all of those who appear here today as well as others that the subcommittee will carefully and judiciously examine the record made at this and other hearings on this issue before making any final decisions relative to wilderness designation in your state. Your thoughts and views are important, and we appreciate your taking the time to appear here today.

Because of the large number of witnesses testifying this morning, it is going to be necessary to limit your oral testimony to approximately three minutes. Your entire written statement will appear in the record, and I urge you to summarize the main points you wish to make so that there will be time for questions and so that everyone will have an equal chance to be heard.

Now, before turning to our first witness, Senator Hecht, do you have a statement that you would like to make?

[The text of S. 1138 and a statement from Mrs. Vucanovich follow:]

II

100TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1138

To designate certain lands in the State of Nevada as wilderness, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6 (legislative day, APRIL 21), 1987

Mr. REID introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

---

A BILL

To designate certain lands in the State of Nevada as wilderness, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1987".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131–1136), the following lands in the State of Nevada are hereby designated wilderness, and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest, which comprise approximately thirty-nine thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Alta Toquima Wilderness—Proposed", dated March, 1987, and which shall be known as the Alta Toquima Wilderness.

(2) Certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest, which comprise approximately eighty two thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Arc Dome Wilderness—Proposed", dated March, 1987, and which shall be known as the Arc Dome Wilderness.

(3) Certain lands in the Inyo National Forest, which comprise approximately nine thousand four hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Boundary Peak Wilderness—Proposed", dated March, 1987, and which shall be known as the Boundary Peak Wilderness.

(4) Certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest, which comprise approximately thirty thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "East Humboldts Wilderness—Proposed", dated March, 1987, and which shall be known as the East Humboldts Wilderness.

(5) Certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest, which comprise approximately forty-nine thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Jarbidge Wilderness Additions—Proposed", dated March, 1987, and which are hereby incorporated in, and which shall be deemed to be a part of the Jarbidge Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88-577.

(6) Certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest, which comprise approximately eighty-two thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mt. Moriah Wilderness—Proposed", dated March, 1987, and which shall be known as the Mt. Moriah Wilderness.

(7) Certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest, which comprise approximately twenty-six thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mt. Rose Wilderness—Proposed", dated March, 1987, and which shall be known as the Mt. Rose Wilderness.

(8) Certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest, which comprise approximately twenty-seven thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Quinn Canyon Wilderness—Proposed", dated March, 1987, and which shall be known as the Quinn Canyon Wilderness.

(9) Certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest, which comprise approximately seventy-five thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Ruby Mountains Wilderness—Proposed", dated March, 1987, and which shall be known as the Ruby Mountains Wilderness.

(10) Certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest, which comprise approximately forty-three thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mt. Charleston Wilderness—Proposed", dated March, 1987, and which shall be known as the Mt. Charleston Wilderness.

(11) Certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest, which comprise approximately ninety-seven thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Table Mountain Wilderness—Proposed", dated March, 1987, and which shall be known as the Table Mountain Wilderness.

(12) Certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest, which comprise approximately forty thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled Grant Range Wilderness—Proposed, dated April, 1986, and which shall be known as the Grant Range Wilderness.

SEC. 3. MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS.

As soon as practicable after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by this Act with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate. Each such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that correction of clerical and typographical errors in each such map and description may be made by the Secretary. Each such map and description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS.

Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. WILDERNESS REVIEW CONCERNS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) the Department of Agriculture has completed the second roadless area review and evaluation program (RARE II); and

(2) the Congress has made its own review and examination of National Forest System roadless areas in the State of Nevada and of the environmental impacts associated with alternative allocations of such areas.

(b) DETERMINATION.—On the basis of such review, the Congress hereby determines and directs that—

(1) without passing on the question of the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada; such statement shall not be subject to judicial review with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada;

(2) with respect to the National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada which were reviewed by the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands referred to in subsection (d), that review and evaluation or reference shall be deemed for the purposes of the initial land management plans required for such lands by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National

Forest Management Act of 1976, to be an adequate consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and the Department of Agriculture shall not be required to review the wilderness option prior to the revisions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness option when the plans are revised, which revisions will ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every fifteen years, unless, prior to such time, the Secretary of Agriculture finds that conditions in a unit have significantly changed;

(3) areas in the State of Nevada reviewed in such final environmental statement or referenced in subsection (d) and not designated wilderness upon enactment of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in accordance with land management plans pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976: *Provided,* That such areas need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of the initial land management plans;

(4) in the event that revised land management plans in the State of Nevada are implemented pursuant

to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law, areas not recommended for wilderness designation need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas recommended for wilderness designation shall be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation as may be required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law; and

(5) unless expressly authorized by Congress, the Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any further statewide roadless area review and evaluation of National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(c) REVISION.—As used in this section, and as provided in section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the term "revision" shall not include an "amendment" to a plan.

(d) APPLICATION OF SECTION.—The provisions of this section shall also apply to:

(1) National Forest System roadless lands in the State of Nevada which are less than 5,000 acres in size.

(2) Those National Forest System roadless areas, or portions thereof in the State of Nevada, which were identified by unit plans listed at the end of this paragraph, which are not designated as wilderness by this Act:

National Forest	Unit Plan
Humboldt	Santa Rosa
Humboldt	Ruby Mtn./E. Humboldt
Toiyabe	Mt. Charleston
Toiyabe	Central Nevada

SEC. 6. GRAZING IN WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) LIVESTOCK GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in wilderness areas established by this Act, where established prior to the date of enactment of this Act, shall be administered in accordance with section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act and section 108 of Public Law 96-560.

(b) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to review all policies, practices, and regulations of the Department of Agriculture regarding livestock grazing in national forest wilderness areas in Nevada in order to insure that such policies, practices, and regulations fully conform with and implement the intent of Congress regarding grazing in such areas, as such intent is expressed in this Act.

(c) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the enactment of this Act, and at least every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate a report detailing the progress made by the United States Forest Service in carrying out the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

SEC. 7. MT. ROSE SNOWMOBILE CORRIDOR EXCEPTION.

(a) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or the Wilderness Act, the corridor located in Mt. Rose described in subsection (b) shall be available for snowmobiles beginning January 1 of each year and ending April 30 of such year.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF CORRIDOR.—The corridor referred to in subsection (a) is described as follows:

> Northeast corridor boundary line running from the common corners of sections 3, 4, 9, and 10 to a point one quarter mile east of the common corners of sections 10, 11, 15, 14, on the boundary between section 11 and section 14. The southwest corridor boundary line running from the common corner of sections 10,

11, 15, and 14 to a point one quarter mile south of the common corners of sections 3, 4, 9, and 10 on the boundary between sections 9 and 10. The corridor is approximately one mile long and approximately one quarter mile wide.

SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON BUFFER ZONES.

Congress does not intend that the designation of wilderness areas in the State of Nevada lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around each wilderness area. The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from within any wilderness area shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness area.

SEC. 9. STATE WATER ALLOCATION AUTHORITY.

As provided in section 4(d)(6) of the Wilderness Act, nothing in this Act shall constitute an express or implied claim or denial on the part of the Federal Government as to exemption from Nevada water laws.

SEC. 10. STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY.

As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Nevada with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests in Nevada.

STATEMENT OF
THE HONORABLE BARBARA VUCANOVICH
BEFORE THE
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS
AUGUST 4, 1987

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the Subcommittee. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to testify before you this morning on S. 1138. As you are well aware, Nevada wilderness is an extremely controversial issue within our state. It is also becoming a popular issue with House colleagues of mine from other states who, it seems, would like to designate the whole State of Nevada as wilderness!

I'm sure you are also aware that four very different bills have been introduced regarding wilderness in Nevada. I introduced H.R. 708, a 132,000 acre bill, on January 21, 1987; H.R. 2044 was introduced by Congressman Darden on April 9, 1987 and would designate 1.4 million acres; Congressman Bilbray introduced H.R. 2142 on April 23, 1987, which would designate 784,000 acres; and S. 1138, a 599,400 acre bill, was introduced by Senator Reid on May 6, 1987.

Mr. Chairman, I have several reservations regarding wilderness. I am concerned with the prospect of locking away multiple use public lands with a single use designation. I am very concerned about the people who make their living on the land. I am troubled about the known and unknown mineral potential of the lands in question and alarmed about the effect this will have on water rights. But mainly I am concerned about how my constituents feel about wilderness, and I am here to tell you are not welcoming large wilderness designations with open arms.

I am not absolutely opposed to wilderness. I believe we should set aside some special areas for both present and future generations to use and enjoy in their pristine state. However, I don't believe more is always better. As any Nevadan knows, the majority of our state is truly spectacular, but that does not mean it should all be designated wilderness.

The majority of the proposed wilderness areas are located in my district. Citizens from rural Nevada, my constituents, are the people who will live with the ramifications of wilderness day in and day out and I believe these people have a right to be heard. I have requested that Chairman Vento of the House National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee, hold hearings in Nevada, and I respectfully request, Mr. Chairman, that your Subcomittee also go out to my state and talk to the people.

As I'm sure you are also aware, Forest Service wilderness is just the tip of the wilderness iceberg. We have yet to study and make recommendations on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service. To make such large acreage designations on Forest Service lands, without taking into account the substantial percentage of BLM lands in Nevada that could be considered for wilderness, is irresponsible.

This is a Nevada issue. It is not something that can or should be resolved by the United States Congress. I appreciate you holding this hearing, however, because it gives me the opportunity to express my absolute opposition to S. 1138, and to urge this Committee to take a very close look at Nevada wilderness, but to take that look in Nevada. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

STATEMENT OF HON. CHIC HECHT, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Senator HECHT. Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for holding these hearings.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to see so many familiar faces in the audience today. You may recall, Mr. Chairman, that in the last Congress I conducted five days of wilderness hearings in Nevada on the bill that Senator Laxalt and I introduced, S. 722.

Mr. Chairman, you and this subcommittee have been very helpful to Nevada during this Congress on legislation that both Nevada Senators support, and I, in turn, have tried to be helpful to you by pinch-hitting for you here when other responsibilities required your attention.

This bill, unlike the others I have referred to, is not supported by both Senators from Nevada. For the record, Mr. Chairman, I am not a cosponsor of this bill, I do oppose this bill, and I was not consulted about the choice of a day and the time for this hearing. Rather than dwelling on the procedure aspects of this hearing, I would like to discuss some of the substance of the issue before us.

I have two basic problems with this bill. First, it takes multiple use land in Nevada and turns it into single use as wilderness. Let me make it clear that I am not against wilderness. I am not against clean air and free-flowing streams. I am not against preserving the tranquility of an untouched natural area. I do support all of these things, including wilderness in Nevada, just a lot less wilderness than is in this bill.

I do oppose depriving a real-life human being of the opportunity to make a living. I oppose an approach that endangers the future livelihoods of families that have pursued a way of life for generations. I oppose an effort to lock out certain types of recreationists from the public lands. I oppose locking up valuable natural resources that could otherwise contribute to our energy, independence or strategic industries.

Wilderness is promoted as the best way of protecting the land; however, I think that the people who are closest to the land are the ones who know best how to protect it and have the greatest stake in preserving that land, not for selfish economic reasons but because that is where they live.

Some people say that unless land is preserved as wilderness then surely it will be destroyed. They point to real problems of the past to illustrate their point, but, Mr. Chairman, we live in the 1980s, not in the 1890s or even 1930s. We live in a world of environmental impact statements, section 404 dredge and fill permits, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act reports, Endangered Species Act, section 7 consultations, National Forest Management Plans and the BLM's Coordinated Resource Management Plan.

Thanks to the legislation of the last 20 years, our land can be protected without having to make a wilderness, and the land can be protected while still allowing people to benefit from multiple use.

It has been claimed that S. 1138 creates wilderness in only a small portion of Nevada's public land, that Nevada has a smaller fraction of its land in wilderness than any other state and so we need more.

There are two problems with this approach. First, this is not a race we are involved in here. We get no sort of prize for having a large fraction of our state in wilderness.

Second, Nevada has almost no non-Federal lands. The U.S. Government owns 87 percent of my state, so what happens on even a small fraction of the land is insignificant. In some counties of Nevada, almost 100 percent of the land is Federally owned, and if economic activity does not take place on Federal land, it does not take place at all.

The second problem with this approach is that the particular pieces of land affected by S. 1138 are among the most valuable in Nevada from a multiple use perspective. There are four Nevada wilderness bills that have been introduced in this Congress. Lest anyone think that this bill represents some grand compromise gesture, I would like to point out that the acreage in this bill exceeds by some 7,000 acres the wilderness that would have been designated by the bill that passed the House in the last Congress.

For myself, I have indicated that I hope to eventually add land to my state's major urban areas to the acreage of the bill I supported in the last Congress, but I am not prepared to do that at this time, and I will not be pressured into meeting someone else's schedule.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, this bill does not adequately address the Kane decision on wilderness water rights, which is still not in its final form and which could give the Federal Government new control over water in the west.

I know the Chairman is aware that this water rights issue is very complex, and I think we should proceed very carefully and thoroughly so that we do not endanger the water of the west which is the lifeblood of my state and every other state in the region.

I look forward to hearing the testimony we are going to receive today, Mr. Chairman. I only wish more Nevadans could have had the opportunity to come here to testify.

Mr. Chairman, last week I attended a memorial service of Secretary of Commerce Mac Baldrige. President Reagan made the most beautiful eulogy I think I have ever heard in my life. There was not a dry eye in the cathedral. He said Mac Baldrige always liked to be with cowboys because they only spoke when they had something to say.

Besides cowboys, I will talk about ranchers. They do not talk much, but, boy, do they act. Let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, I have absolutely no intention of going back to Nevada and telling the cowboys and ranchers that I am taking their state water rights and giving them to the Federal Government.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you, Senator Hecht.

Senator Reid, you are our leadoff witness. Incidentally, Senator Reid, you are invited to join the committee if you like for questions.

Congressman Bilbray, you are welcome to stay if you like.

Please proceed, Senator Reid.

STATEMENT OF HON. HARRY REID, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Senator **Reid**. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for allowing me to sit with you today. The State of Nevada is fortunate to have you chairing this subcommittee, with your experience of having been a governor of your own state, having served so ably there and having served with distinction here in the Senate. The state is fortunate to have you conducting this hearing.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, the State of Nevada is a large state. It is the seventh largest state in the United States, with some 72 million acres. It contains some of the most beautiful land in the world, mountain peaks and beautiful desert land. We have over 100 national forest roadless areas totaling about 3.2 million acres and spanning 70 percent of the national forests in our state.

Nevada is virtually the only state in the western United States that has not adopted its wilderness legislation. Mr. Chairman, you cannot say, but there is a graph to my left that shows the comparison of Nevada's designated wilderness to other states. As you can see there, Nevada——

Senator **Bumpers**. Senator Reid, I wonder if we could have that map turned around a little bit.

That is fine. Thank you.

Senator **Reid**. As you can see, Mr. Chairman, the State of Nevada has virtually no wilderness. We have one small area in Elko County that has been there for some 20 years. You take, for example, the next smallest state, which is the State of Utah, which has a vast amount of wilderness compared to that in Nevada. Even after a bill like mine passes, it would have far more wilderness than we have. Yet, in addition to that, the State of Utah has five national parks. In addition to that, it has a large amount, like the State of Nevada, that is controlled by the Federal Government, some 60-odd percent.

The State of Arizona has a large amount of wilderness. That area was arrived at as a result of work done by Senator Goldwater and Morris Udall. As you know, Mr. Chairman, the State of Arizona also has vast amounts of Federal land that is controlled either by Indian tribes and/or the Federal Government.

So any talk that the State of Nevada is different than the western states certainly is not credible.

I would also suggest, Mr. Chairman, that when a wilderness bill passes, there will be over 2.5 million acres of land that will be returned to multiple use. That is one of the drives that many of us have to get this wilderness legislation behind us; that is, to turn this land back to multiple use.

The way the law now stands, that land that is in study areas will be treated as de facto wilderness. That is why it is very important to have this matter put behind us.

Prior to introducing my bill, I traveled to the proposed wilderness areas with members of the House Interior Committee. The Congressman from Ohio, the Congressman from Georgia, from Pennsylvania, Oregon and other places traveled to view these areas.

In addition to that, there have been hearings held by this subcommittee, by the House subcommittee, and literally hundreds and hundreds of witnesses have been heard. This is not something that is a new issue. There has been no one thing to my knowledge that has been heard more in the Congress than the Nevada Wilderness Bill.

I have also met with numerous Members of Congress individually and hundreds of people individually. So this matter has received its day in court.

I think this is the time to resolve the Nevada wilderness issue. Waiting only prolongs things. Since the election, Mr. Chairman, which was held less than a year ago, I have met with numerous ranchers and mining interests, and they, too, recognize that it would be well to get this matter behind us.

It is important to realize, Mr. Chairman, that Nevada is more than the bright lights of Las Vegas and Reno. It is more than a place to set off bombs. It is more than a place to test fighting capabilities of fighter aircraft. It is more than a place to search for locating high level and low level nuclear waste dump sites. It is not a desert wasteland.

Nevada is a series of beautiful intersecting mountain ranges. It has the great Lake Tahoe. There are only two lakes like Lake Tahoe in the world, alpine glacial lakes. The other is in the Soviet Union. We have Lake Meade that was formed by Boulder Dam. We have some of the most beautiful areas in the world, I repeat, and we are going to dedicate on August 15 the newest United States national park, the first national park in the continental United States in almost 20 years. According to Mr. Mott and others, it may be the last national park ever in the United States.

So Nevada's little known secret is that it contains these incredible mountain ranges full of high peaks, wild valleys, and premier trout streams, and deer, elk, and mountain lion roam freely in these areas. One of the wilderness areas suggested in my legislation has the largest habitat of bighorn mountain sheep in the State of Nevada. One of my proposed areas boasts 30 lakes and contains mountain peaks as spectacular as any in the Rockies.

I have done everything I can to craft a wilderness bill that meets the various interest groups, from ranchers to miners to skiers to hikers to sportsmen to senior citizens. I think that we have a practical wilderness bill, a bill, for example, where grazing is allowed, where there are no buffer zones. In fact, they are disallowed in this legislation. Water rights are not impaired, any talk about water rights being impaired is only a subterfuge.

There are no upstream water users, Mr. Chairman. I repeat, there are no upstream water users in my wilderness areas that I designated. The water talk is just talk only.

In addition, development of existing valid mining claims is permitted. I have excluded from my wilderness areas over 99 percent of mining claims. The less than 1 percent of mining claims that are still in my wilderness areas can be developed. That is in the law, but I have excluded over 99 percent of the mining claims.

Hunting, trapping and fishing, of course, is permitted in wilderness areas. In fact, these opportunities by most standards would be enhanced because wilderness protects wildlife and fish habitats from the adverse effects of road building and other development.

These areas, of course, will not become inaccessible to senior citizens and the handicapped because all these areas right now have no roads in them.

Over and above, Mr. Chairman, from what I have already mentioned, I have gone against the wishes of many people, including your own staff subcommittee, in my bill because I have accommodated very special interest groups; for example, snowmobilers in the one area that they want the snowmobile, the Mount Rose area near Reno. I have allowed a four-month access corridor in which they can snowmobile.

I have worked my boundaries so that heliskiing can continue in the Ruby Mountain area.

I have even pulled back a boundary in the proposed Arc Dome area because there is an existing road that has been there for many, many years which you cannot see very well, but I was convinced, in fact, there was a road. Thus, it was not a roadless area, and I changed my boundaries to meet the demands of a miner in that area.

Compared to other states, this bill, even when it is completed, there will be very little wilderness. There is a famous Woodie Guthrie song, Mr. Chairman, entitled "This Land is Your Land'. I am sure you are familiar with that. The State of Nevada is my state but, you know, it is also your state. It is land that covers lakes, rivers, deserts, mountain peaks and includes, as I have mentioned, bighorn sheep, mountain lion, cougar, eagles, beaver, bobcat, chipmunks, elk, deer, antelope, all far removed from the vision of atomic blast and nuclear waste.

Truly, Nevada land is our land, and it is our duties as members of this Congress to try to set aside a small amount of this pristine land that we still have. We do not have much pristine land left in this United States. Some of it is in Nevada, and I want to preserve a little bit of it. I want to preserve it for my children, their children, and their grandchildren so that when people come to Nevada in the years to come there will be land that is pristine, that is untouched.

Finally, it is my hope that Nevada will be a place where we will all have the opportunity to go years from now and recognize that this Congress had the foresight to select these unique and beautiful areas of the State of Nevada, part of this great nation, as wilderness.

I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for your time. I would ask that my statement be made part of the record.

[The prepared statement of Senator Reid follows:]

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR HARRY REID (D-NV)
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS, AND FORESTS
S. 1138, THE NEVADA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1987
AUGUST 4, 1987

Mr. Chairman, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to conduct a hearing on S. 1138, a bill I introduced on May 6, 1987 which would designate 599,400 acres of Forest Service land as wilderness in the State of Nevada.

Nevada is a vast state--the seventh largest in the nation, and it contains some of the most beautiful desert land and mountain peaks in the world.

With its more than 100 National Forest roadless areas, totalling 3.2 million acres and spanning 70 percent of the National Forests in our State, Nevada is virtually the only State in the nation that has not adopted wilderness legislation. Currently all roadless areas are administered as "de facto" wilderness pursuant to court appeals against the latest forest management plans. That is why it is critical to resolve the wilderness impasse.

Before going further, I would like to share some background regarding the evolution of this legislation. Early in 1983, I was contacted by U.S. Forest Service personnel to discuss the importance of designing a wilderness bill for Nevada. Over this four-year period, I have met with various organizations, Federal officials, Members of Congress, and individuals here and in Nevada to become acquainted with their concerns about wilderness.

In the 99th Congress, I participated in a 5-day Congressional tour of nearly all of the proposed areas. As a result of that trip, and my enduring desire to see the wilderness issue resolved in a balanced, equitable way, I introduced a Nevada wilderness bill. Later I amended that bill and the legislation passed the House with an overwhelming majority, but it was never taken up for consideration in this body.

We are now in the 100th Congress, and I believe this is the year to resolve the Nevada wilderness situation. Waiting to act prolongs the inevitable and serves to tie those lands up administratively. Now is the time to protect some of the most special areas in Nevada and release the rest for other multiple use purposes.

It is important to realize Nevada is more than just the bright lights of Reno and Las Vegas. It is more than an area to set off atomic bombs; more than an area to test fighting capabilities of fighter aircraft throughout the free world. It is more than a dumping ground for high level and low level nuclear waste; and it is not, in fact, a desert wasteland. Nevada, to those of us who see it as something other than what I have just described, think of Nevada as the great Lake Tahoe; the only alpine glacial lake in the United States. We think of Nevada as Lake Mead, formed when Boulder Dam was constructed and one of the largest man-made lakes in the world, as a place of recreation and enjoyment that has been part of the western United States for almost 50 years. And we think of the Great Basin National Park, which will be dedicated on the 15th of this month. Finally, we think of Nevada as a State with rare physical beauty and unique animal and plant species, which needs to be preserved for future generations.

Nevada's little know secret is that it contains incredible mountain ranges full of high peaks, wild valleys and premier trout streams. Elk, deer, and mountain lions roam freely in Aspen dominated forests. Some areas are the home of antelope and bighorn sheep. Indeed, one of the proposed areas boasts 30 lakes and contains mountain peaks as spectacular as any in the Rockies.

Over the past several years I have met with a myraid of interest groups, ranging from ranchers and miners, to skiers, hikers, sportsmen, and Senior Citizens. Through these discussions, I believe I have developed a wilderness proposal that would be a practical solution to the wilderness dilemma. For example, in my bill, grazing is allowed to continue in wilderness areas and buffer-zones are disallowed. Water rights are not impaired, nor is the current National Forest revenue-sharing with local governments because the current payment under the Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes Act will remain the same after wilderness designation. In addition, development of existing valid mining claims is permitted. Hunting, trapping, and fishing are permitted in wilderness areas as well. In fact, these opportunities may be enhanced because wilderness protects wildlife and fish habitat from the adverse effects of roadbuilding and other development. These areas will not become inaccessible to Senior Citizens and the handicapped as all of the lands in question are currently roadless.

Over and above what I have already mentioned, I should note, that against the wishes of this Committee, I have accomodated snowmobilers in the Mt. Rose area with a four month access corridor. In addition, I have pulled back a boundary in the proposed Arc Dome wilderness area near the South Twin river to satisfy a mine owner there.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 provided for wilderness to become an ongoing part of American civlization--to give these wild areas legal protection amidst progress. For Nevada, passage of my bill will have the dual effect of setting aside less than 600,000 acres of the "crown jewels" of Nevada to be preserved for generations to come and of releasing more than 2.6 million acres of National Forest lands in Nevada for other uses.

There's a famous Woodie Guthrie song that we're all familiar with called "This Land is Your Land." Well, the State of Nevada is my State. It is your State. It's a land that covers lakes and rivers, deserts and mountain peaks. It includes bighorn sheep, Mountain lion, cougar, eagles, beaver, bobcat, chipmunks, elk, deer, and antelope -- all far removed from the vision of atomic blasts and nuclear waste. Truly, Nevada is our land. And it is our duty as Members of Congress to try to set a balance to preserve wilderness and allow development, so that in the years to come this land will still be our land. Finally, it is my hope that Nevada will be a place where our children will have the opportunity to see elk prancing on a hilltop or an eagle gliding through he sky, because we had the foresight to select these unique and beautiful areas as wilderness.

Again Mr. Chairman, thank you for your time to conduct these very important hearings.

Senator **Bumpers**. I thank you very much for your testimony this morning, Senator Reid. I was just telling Mr. Williams, to my right, a staff member, when I was just a very young child my father was elected president of the Arkansas Retail Hardware Association. He was a small town hardware merchant. The national convention that year was going to be held in Los Angeles, and they gave us $300 to make the trip. We piled in a 1936 Ford, and I think we got home with $125.

I will never forget. We saw it all. We took the southern route to Los Angeles and the northern route going back to Arkansas. It was a three week trip, and that was my first glimpse of a geographical area that I had no knowledge of. It was a whole new vista opening up to me.

I remember we took that northern route. I guess it is I–80 now, through Winnemucca and Elko and up that way. It was a magnificent area. I remember we had been told that Bing Crosby had a ranch at Elko, and we looked everywhere. We thought there would be a big sign saying Bing Crosby Ranch is here. We never did find it.

That was my first visit to Nevada, and I have been back there many, many times. The first time I ever got run out of a casino, I was about that tall. I was really captivated until some cop grabbed me and told me I had to leave.

I appreciate your love for your state and the magnificent beauty of it, which I had seen a lot of that time and a lot since. So I thank you very much for your bill and for coming here to testify this morning.

Congressman Bilbray.

Senator **Hecht**. May I just say one thing, Mr. Chairman?

Senator **Bumpers**. Yes, of course.

Senator **Hecht**. I am impressed with what you just said, and now I know why you are such a fine Senator. You had the luxury of growing up and having your father as a retail merchant. [Laughter.]

Senator **Bumpers**. He had a different view of it at the time, as I recall. [Laughter.]

Congressman?

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES H. BILBRAY, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Mr. **Bilbray**. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear here today to discuss Nevada wilderness.

Few issues are of greater importance to the future than the public lands of Nevada. I would like to also point out that I also took that trip along with Senator Hecht and Senator Reid, then Congressman Reid, and other members of our delegation as the representatives of our State Senate on that trip. I was a member of the Public Lands Subcommittee. I have been working on this issue for many years prior to being elected to Congress last November.

So I have a deep interest that hopefully can help to effect some sort of a compromise which will eventually become a wilderness bill for the state.

Nevada remains one of the western states for which the Congress has yet to enact legislation to designate statewide wilderness based on the United States Forest Service's 1979 roadless area review and evaluation, RARE II. Currently, Nevada has approximately 65,000 acres designated as wilderness.

As Senator Reid has stated, this is very, very small compared to the rest of the states in the west.

The distinguished gentleman who has introduced S. 1138, Senator Harry Reid, has been a leader in Congressional action to protect Nevada's rich resource of forested lands. While serving as a member of Congress last year, Senator Reid introduced H.R. 3302, legislation which passed the House and would have designated 592,000 acres of national forest wilderness in 11 areas.

S. 1138 is similar to H.R. 3302, designating 599,000 acres in 12 areas of the Tolyabe, Inyo and Humboldt National Forest areas as wilderness.

Mr. Sieberling, the distinguished former Chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, has described the areas within Nevada as the most beautiful in our nation and further added that Nevada wilderness is one of the best-kept secrets of the American outdoors. His comments were made during the Public Lands Subcommittee tour of Nevada, a journey, as I stated, which I had the honor to attend as the representative of the Nevada legislature. .

From firsthand knowledge of these areas, I can attest to their striking grandeur. I have yet to encounter other areas as resplendent as those found within our home state.

For those who have not had the opportunity to visit these wonderful lands, allow me to highlight the areas proposed under the distinguished gentleman's legislation.

Mount Jefferson, the awesome, isolated summit of the Toquima Range, is included. This area includes a singularly important archeological site, the highest Shoshone encampment in Nevada prehistory.

The proposed Arc Dome Wilderness is home to mountain lion and mule deer as well as numerous trout streams lined with cottonwood, willow, aspen, birch and maple.

Boundary Peak, rising 13,145 feet, is the highest point in Nevada.

The largest herd of desert bighorn sheep, the Nevada state animal, to be found in the Nevada National Forests, is found within the Grant Range.

Close to my home in Las Vegas, Mount Charleston provides miles of limestone cliffs and extensive forests of Ponderosa and bristlecone pine. As you well know, the bristlecone pine is the oldest living thing in the world.

The Ruby Mountains, a spectacle glacier-carved landscape rivaled nowhere else in Nevada or much of the rest of the United States, is lined with hanging valleys, clusters of lakes and snowfed streams flowing down U-shaped glacial valleys. I will tell you, the committee that went out and looked at that area was just totally impressed with the Ruby Mountains. It is just a gorgeous area, second to none in this whole country.

Other areas are included, Mr. Chairman, yet time does not permit me to describe them in measure commensurate with their beauty.

S. 1138 represents a sound balance of wilderness preservation and access. Language is included which prohibits the formation of buffer areas surrounding the wilderness areas. That has been a thing that the ranchers and miners have continually battered our Public Lands Subcommittee and, I am sure, this Congress with.

Under this measure, grazing is allowed in wilderness areas where it already takes place. In addition, snowmobiles would be permitted to operate in part of one of the wilderness areas.

I share Senator Reid's respect for Nevada's magnificent forest lands. Legislation which I have introduced, H.R. 2142, would designate 14 areas totaling 729,000 acres of Nevada forests as wilderness.

I thank you again for this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, and I urge this committee to take action because I was hoping when I came here to act as a catalyst to possibly effect a compromise between the Senate and the House and get a bill out. We cannot go another two years without a wilderness area. We have to get this issue concluded. We have not been able to reach a compromise within our delegation.

I know that especially here in the Senate you look to try to work out these compromises. I do not think a compromise can be achieved within the Nevada delegation if it takes four years, six years or eight years. I think this committee has got to take a firm hand and work with the Nevada delegation, both in the House and the Senate, to work out a compromise or you will not have a wilderness bill in the 100th Congress or the 101st or the 102nd.

Thank you.

Senator **Bumpers**. Let me ask one question. Chief Robertson of the Forest Service is getting ready to testify in a moment. I assume that you are familiar with the Forest Service recommendation of something over 400,000 acres?

Senator **Reid**. Almost 500,000.

Senator **Bumpers**. How many acres of difference is there between this bill and the Forest Service's?

Senator **Reid**. About 150,000 acres. Theirs is 410,000 minus 590 some odd thousand, so it is about 180 thousand acres.

Mr. **Bilbray**. There are some areas in the Forest bill that they want to manage rather than leave as wilderness, including areas like Table Mountain. That is kind of a balance, they have spruce and they are introducing elk in that area and they are doing a lot of things, and they think they can manage it better by not having designated wilderness, keeping the same status. It is roadless and so forth.

That is just a, I would say just a minor disagreement between the Forest Service and both Senator Reid and myself.

Senator **Reid**. If you added the Table Mountain area they would be almost identical. I would also state Mr. Chairman again, looking at that chart, even if my bill passed we would still be far smaller than any state that's up there.

Senator **Bumpers**. What do each one of those signs represent?

Senator **Reid**. The State of Nevada has 64,000 acres. The lines are to show a comparison. It is drawn to scale. I am not very good at math, I can not break it down, but it is drawn to scale.

Mr. **Bilbray**. It is a little over a million acres for Arizona and just about a million acres for Utah. I do not know if you can see the bottom, it may be blocked Mr. Chairman from your vision where the sign is set up.

Senator **Bumpers**. Senator Hecht?

Senator **Hecht**. May I ask a question of the distinguished Chairman regarding a legal opinion. Is it not true that when the forest management plans are finished you can release everything except that amount of land?

Senator **Bumpers**. I don't understand the question Senator Hecht.

Senator **Hecht**. So much has been designated to wilderness right now in the forest plan. But when they are completely finished, can't the difference in that and what the Forest Service has recommended be released?

Senator **Reid**. I could respond to that if the Chairman would allow me.

Senator **Bumpers**. Please proceed.

Senator **Reid**. What has happened in the past and there is a lot of legal precedent from Federal courts, that until wilderness, the states have taken action on a wilderness bill, it is deemed by the Federal courts every place else and I assume Nevada would be the same, as de facto wilderness, and is treated accordingly. There are numerous court cases that have held that.

Senator **Hecht**. But the non-wilderness recommendations are released.

Senator **Reid**. No, they are released if you can get them through the Federal courts. But all other areas that have been, if you have tried to release them they have all been held up in court.

Senator **Hecht**. I am told there are a lot of assumptions there.

Senator **Bumpers**. I do not think anybody can answer that question with any certitude Senator Hecht. I know from time to time over here in an effort to get a wilderness bill out we would agree to a release. The House never would. So I guess, if the Forest Service, recommends 410,000 acres, then your question is if we agreed on say 500,000 with the additional acreage that is proposed here be released——

Senator **Reid**. I think what Senator Hecht is saying after the Forest Service completes its RARE II studies or whatever the study is, then all remaining land that is not in their recommendation would be released. And I was responding to that same, but for the Federal court decrees that have come along that would be the case.

The courts have held that up and said that until the wilderness legislation is designated by Congress then that will be held up and be treated as de facto wilderness.

Mr. **Bilbray**. Mr. Chairman if they tried to release that there are going to be suits dropping by environmental groups right and left and for Senator Hecht's edification, he is not an attorney, I recognize that, but it is just like any other case. All the case law has been solidly of it remaining de facto wilderness by the courts. They give an injunctive release like that and I do not think there is any possibility until we reach a wilderness bill, and this is what our state people, our state Forestry Division people have told me, this is what most of the people have told me out in the state that are knowledgeable on it, that they want to see a wilderness bill.

Even some of the ranchers and miners want to see this thing settled and want to see it settled very quickly, because it is causing turmoil in our state because we really can not get on with business.

I know Senator Hecht and I have met and he wants to go out over the state over the August break and talk to some of the people in the district to find out what their feeling is. Senator I can tell you what their feeling is. The ranchers and miners are going to be against the expanded, the environmental groups are going to be for it.

Everyone else is going to fall in between. I can guarantee in my district the majority feel an expanded wilderness area.

Senator BUMPERS. Senator Hecht, have you completed your questions?

Senator HECHT. I would like to——

Senator BUMPERS. I do not think there is an answer to that. If somebody wanted to go into court and challenge this area, then they have a right to do that. That is my understanding.

Senator WALLOP. There is not any point in having a wilderness bill if what you say is true. As it was studied, it is going to be de facto wilderness, so there is no point in——

Senator REID. Once the Congress has acted then it is over with.

Senator WALLOP. So far as you address that within your legislation.

Mr. BILBRAY. I think as soon as the Forest Service bill comes in and they recommend 410,000 can not this committee then release the rest of it back into non-wilderness status, our comment was that the courts, this has been tried in other areas. Suits have been filed and the Federal courts have held and will not let Congress do that at this point, as long as both houses disagree. And the House I can guarantee you will not agree.

Senator BUMPERS. I think that is a correct interpretation.

Senator REID. My legislation calls for deferring those study areas that are not included in the 590,000 plus acres.

Mr. BILBRAY. So does mine.

Mr. RHODER. How many acres are under study?

Senator BUMPERS. Two and a half in the wilderness area. Senator Murkowski?

Senator MURKOWSKI. First of all I might add Mr. Chairman I am slightly offended that they left off one of the major western states in the chart with 56 million acres or so of wilderness in Alaska.

Senator BUMPERS. Sometimes the most obvious is the least obvious.

Senator REID. We have Alaska's on a separate chart.

Mr. BILBRAY. We always thought that was a northern state.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Sometimes they do not even put it on the map, but nevertheless, we pay our taxes too.

Mr. Chairman, in view of where the delegation from Nevada evidently is on this, it would seem that we are kind of in a family dispute here. I recognize obviously the position of the environmentalists with regard to creating more wilderness. I do not know necessarily what the presentation of the witnesses represent, but one can assume that the environmentalists support the wilderness position.

It would seem however that since a number of the delegation apparently is going to be visiting the area, that perhaps any action to be taken by the committee would be better put off for a hearing after the recess. I am reluctant as one Senator sitting on the committee to get involved in somebody else's family fight.

We have the elected representatives from the State of Nevada who best know what's in their best interest and for this committee to act as an arbitrator in mandating or dictating a settlement, so I think is really a responsibility of the Nevada delegation.

If they can not get together, that means they are not compromising, and I think that it would expedite things if they could be encouraged to go in the back room and attempt to get a compromise.

I do not know enough about what is in the best interests of your state to mandate in a family feud, and I much prefer you folks getting together on a compromise.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Senator **Reid**. Senator Murkowski I stated during the opening statement that we have had days and days of hearings on this. We have had hundreds of witnesses and I think we have arrived at a point where there are going to have to be some decisions made by the Congress. Because there are literally millions of acres of land being tied up and prevented from going into multiple use.

I think there are other examples of course where state delegations have not agreed. If that were the case in all of the legislation that came before the Congress we would get very little done.

I don't think Wilderness legislation is any different than most other legislation.

Mr. **Bilbray**. Our problem is we have a two to two vote.

Senator **Bumpers**. We have to be out of here at 12:30 and we have 18 witnesses to hear from. I do not want to cut Senator Murkowski off.

Senator **Murkowski**. I am through.

Senator **Bumpers**. Okay. Senator Wallop.

Senator **Wallop**. First to just make an observation with regards to releasing study areas.

As the Forest Service completes its forest planning process, it can drop anything it wishes to if it is not recommended for wilderness. You do not need this committee to act, you do not need the Congress to act, you do not need the two Houses to act. The Forest Service can do that.

Whether or not they are challenged in court is of some question, but unless the planning process has not been followed the challenge is not likely to succeed. So it is a hard thing for all of us. But my questions regard water. How do you treat water in your wilderness bill?

Senator **Reid**. We have no upstream water users. So there is no water language. Did I say upstream, I am sorry. We have no downstream water user.

Mr. **Bilbray**. My bill does incorporate language that protects, it is the same as Congresswoman Vucanovich's on water rights.

Senator **Wallop**. Are you aware of the decision?

Mr. **Bilbray**. Yes, we are. And as far as I am concerned as a member of the delegation I am willing to work out with my Republican colleagues wording that would protect as much as we possibly can about a downstream user. It is a moot question because we do not have, we will put anything you want in it.

Senator **Wallop**. Does Nevada have the public trust doctrine that California has?

Senator **Reid**. I do not know what that means.

Senator **Wallop**. In all the states we have queried in this, and Nevada still remains unanswered. They did not respond to the water questions. And it has got to be a significant question to them.

Mr. **Bilbray**. I do not have any bill that has any public trust language in it in our Nevada statues, or any language of that sort.

Senator **Wallop**. Well then you have to pay attention to whatever purposes water rights may be implicit in your legislation. Because unless legislation deals with it, the courts will decide what is implicit, not the Congress, not the Nevada delegations.

I suggest you get your water authority.

Mr. **Bilbray**. We can work that out Senator, I do not think that is a major problem between Senator Reid, myself, Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich. That is the least of our problems. That we could solve.

Senator **Reid**. Senator Wallop this has been raised on a number of occasions, but again we have no users along the waterways in the wilderness areas that would be affected.

Senator **Wallop**. If I do not miss my guess looking at the map, you have upstream exchanges that are potential to satisfy the needs of both Nevada and California. You better not just ignore it.

Senator **Reid**. Not in any of these wilderness area.

Senator **Wallop**. In no cases there is potential water use, or diversion?

Mr. **Bilbray**. Not that we know of at all.

Senator **Wallop**. I would be hard pressed to believe that.

Senator **Hecht**. Mr. Chairman I know you are pressed for time but let me ask Senator Wallop one question. Because he was at a hearing yesterday on water rights.

One of the questions in the testimony is whether water rights is a subterfuge to delay this bill. Yesterday in our hearings on water rights you said that it is a very, very valid question in all states. Is that true?

Senator **Wallop**. It is no subterfuge. I mean for any of our western states, which are prior rights states and dependent on the water right. Any assertion of a Federal right——

Mr. **Bilbray**. Senator, we will put any wording in that——

Senator **Hecht**. We do not know the wording. That is the question right now Congressman.

Senator **Wallop**. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Senator **Bumpers**. Gentlemen as I pointed out earlier you are both welcome to stay and join the committee.

Mr. **Bilbray**. I have another hearing back on my side, thank you.

Senator **Bumpers**. Chief Robertson, are you prepared to tell us all you know about wilderness in Nevada? You realize with the witnesses there will be a three minute rule, we will give you three and a half.

STATEMENT OF F. DALE ROBERTSON, CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ACCOMPANIED BY TOM ROEDERER, DEPUTY REGIONAL FORESTER

Mr. Robertson. In view of the time I will summarize my statement. I have with me Tom Roederer who is the Deputy Regional Forester and is familiar with many of the areas in Nevada.

The Department of Agriculture supports the enactment of S. 1138 if it is amended as we recommend. After many years of planning and public involvement we have final forest plans completed for both the Humboldt and the Toiyabe National Forests.

These Forest Plans form the basis for our recommendations regarding S. 1138. The Forest Plans recommend wilderness designation for ten out of the twelve areas proposed in S. 1138.

However, we oppose the designation of Table Mountain and Quinn Canyon areas and would like the opportunity to work with the Committee to minimize potential conflicts resulting from boundary differences in most of the other areas.

In total we recommend 410,000 acres of additional wilderness out of the 599,000 acres that are recommended in S. 1138. In developing these Forest Plans and our recommendations we have tried to provide reasonable opportunities for wilderness experiences as well as opportunities for four-wheel drive recreationists, motorbike riders, snowmobilers, miners, ranchers and others.

The diversity and the productivity of Nevada's wildlife was also an important consideration in developing our Forest Plan recommendations. Our specific views on the individual areas are summarized in the attached statement to my testimony. I have also included a table that compares our wilderness recommendations with those of S. 1138. However, I would like to highlight a couple of items of particular concern.

As I mentioned we oppose the designation of Table Mountain on the Toiyabe National Forest and Quinn Canyon on the Humboldt National Forest as wilderness. The primary reasons for not supporting designation of these areas are existing and potential mining developments, conflicts with on-going recreation uses and conflicts with planned wildlife habitat and range improvement projects.

We also recommend the deletion of section seven, which would establish a Mount Rose snowmobile corridor. The corridor would cross the proposed wilderness area and we believe that ample opportunity exists for snowmobile use in the surrounding area without making an exception to the intent of the Wilderness Act.

In summary, we could support enactment of S. 1138 if amended as I have already suggested, and if the boundaries were adjusted to be consistent with the recommendations in our Forest Plans and the attached statement to my testimony.

At this time I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Robertson follows:]

STATEMENT OF
F. DALE ROBERTSON, CHIEF
FOREST SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Before the
Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate

Concerning S. 1138, the "Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1987"

August 4, 1987

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

I appreciate the opportunity to testify for the Department of Agriculture regarding S. 1138, a bill to designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Of the 5.1 million acres of National Forest System lands in Nevada, only one area of 64,667 acres has been designated as wilderness--the Jarbidge Wilderness.

The Department of Agriculture would support the enactment of S. 1138 if amended as we recommend.

As part of previous Unit Plans and the 1979 second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II), slightly more than 2 million acres were inventoried as roadless in Nevada. Since 1979, extensive planning with public involvement has resulted in Final Forest Plans for the Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests and a Draft Forest Plan for the Inyo National Forest. Each area being considered here today has been fully and carefully considered as to its suitability for wilderness designation. About 7 percent of Nevada is in the

National Forest System and the Forest Service has an important responsibility to maintain a high quality environment through efficient resource management programs.

The Forest Plans are the basis for our recommendations regarding S. 1138. The Forest Plans recommend wilderness designation for most of the areas identified in S. 1138. However, we oppose the designation of two areas, and we would like the opportunity to work with the Committee to minimize potential conflicts resulting from boundary locations on some areas.

In developing these plans, we have talked and listened to the people of Nevada. Their views are diverse and often conflicting. However, we strongly believe that our plans respond to these diverse interests and that the Plans reflect a carefully crafted balance of uses and values. We have tried to provide reasonable opportunities for wilderness experiences as well as opportunities for 4-wheel drive recreationists, motorbike riders, snowmobile owners, miners, ranchers, and others. The diversity and productivity of Nevada's wildlife was also an important consideration in developing our Forest Plan recommendations. As we discuss the wilderness bill before us today, we should keep in mind the shared use of these public lands and the diverse values for minerals, forage, water, wildlife, and recreation, as well as wilderness.

S. 1138 proposes the addition of 599,400 acres to the wilderness system. The Administration supports the Forest Plans, which recommend 409,900 acres for wilderness designation. In addition to the proposed wilderness designations, the bill contains standard release language for those roadless areas that have been studied but not designated as wilderness. It also contains language concerning grazing in wilderness areas. Section 7 would establish the Mt. Rose Snowmobile corridor and section 8 prohibits the establishment of buffer zones. For the most part, the other sections of the bill either reiterate current provisions in the Wilderness Act, or attempt to clarify these provisions.

Most of our specific views on the individual areas are summarized in the attached supplemental statement. I have also included a table that compares our wilderness recommendations with those of S. 1138. I would like to highlight a few items of particular concern.

Section 2(3) would designate a 9,400-acre Boundary Peak Wilderness within the Nevada portion of the Inyo National Forest. Most of the Boundary Peak (White Mountain) area is in California, and it was designated as a further planning area in the California Wilderness Act of 1984. We would not oppose wilderness designation of 6,400 acres in Nevada as recommended in the draft Forest Plan. At such time as the Congress may designate a California portion of the Boundary Peak area, we would manage the Nevada and California portions as one wilderness.

We oppose the designation of Table Mountain, on the Toiyabe National Forest, and Quinn Canyon, on the Humboldt National Forest, as wilderness. The primary reasons for not recommending designation of these areas are: (1) existing and potential mining developments; (2) conflicts with ongoing recreational uses; and (3) conflicts with planned wildlife habitat and range improvement projects.

We also recommend the deletion of section 7 which would establish a Mt. Rose snowmobile corridor. The corridor would be approximately 1 mile long and 1/4-mile wide and transverse the proposed wilderness area. The corridor would be open for motorized snowmobile travel from January 1 through April 30 of each year. We believe that ample opportunity exists for snowmobile use in the surrounding area without making an exception to the Wilderness Act.

In summary, we would support the enactment of S. 1138 if amended as already suggested and if the boundaries were adjusted to designate the areas as recommended in the attached supplemental statement which is based on the final Forest Plans for the Toiyabe and Humboldt National Forests. I would be pleased to answer questions or provide additional information.

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONCERNING S. 1138
NEVADA WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT OF 1987

WILDERNESS DESIGNATION PROPOSALS

Alta Toquima (Mt. Jefferson): We support the designation of 31,000 acres as the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. S. 1138 would designate an additional 8,000 acres. Our proposal was made to minimize conflicts between wilderness advocates and the livestock and mineral industries. The concerns of motorized recreational users were also considered. The additional 8,000 acres would add administrative costs and require the closure of additional roads.

Arc Dome: We support the designation of 94,400 acres in the Arc Dome area as recommended in the Toiyabe Forest Plan. While the Arc Dome proposal in S. 1138 of 82,000 acres is less than the Forest Plan, we note that the South Twin area has not been included in the S. 1138 proposal. Also, S. 1138 has included several sections of land that extend the area to the south of our recommended area. We do not support this extension to the south, as it would require the closure of nearly 6 miles of the Peavine road. Many recreationists use this road to gain access to the higher quality roadless area. We acknowledge that the removal of the South Twin Area as proposed in S. 1138 would reduce conflicts with the mining interests. We would like the opportunity to work with the Committee on boundary adjustments that would reduce potential conflicts. Our specific concerns are with an active mine in the South Twin area and with the Peavine Road.

Boundary Peak: S. 1138 would designate a 9,400-acre Boundary Peak Wilderness within the Nevada portion of the Inyo National Forest. Most of the Boundary Peak (White Mountains) area is in California, and was designated as a further planning area in the California Wilderness Act of 1984. We would not oppose wilderness designation of 6,400 acres in Nevada as recommended in the draft Forest Plan. At such time as the Congress may designate a California portion of the total area, we would manage the Nevada and California portions as one wilderness.

East Humboldts: We support the designation of 18,500 acres as wilderness, but we oppose the designation of 11,500 additional acres under S. 1138. Based on public comments received during the Summer of 1985 on the draft Forest Plan, our proposed boundary for this area was modified in the final Forest Plan. The modifications were made to clearly define that portion of the East Humboldt Roadless Area containing the highest quality wilderness values. The area north of Hole in the Mountain Peak and Tent Mountain was not included in our final recommendation due to extensive conflicts with intermingled private land. The area above Angel Lake was excluded due to concentrated motorized Winter sports activities.

Jarbidge Wilderness Additions: We support the addition of 26,400 acres to the existing wilderness. The proposed boundaries in the Final Forest Plan were modified after a detailed analysis of public comments to the draft plan and in consideration of resource management potentials and the need to accommodate roads and non-wilderness activities. Increasing the size of the additions to the 49,000 acres proposed in S. 1138 would complicate management for other multiple use purposes. Local residents were in favor of refining the current wilderness boundaries to reduce conflict, but, were not in favor of a significant size increase in the designated wilderness area.

Mt. Moriah: We support the designation of 60,700 acres of the Mt. Moriah area as wilderness instead of the 82,000 acres proposed in S. 1138. Our proposed boundaries were modified after a detailed analysis of public comments to the draft plan and in consideration of resource management potential and the need to accommodate roads and non-wilderness activities. The Final Forest Plan recommends the area containing a high degree of natural integrity, high quality wilderness values, and excellent opportunities for solitude. Approximately 4,700 acres identified in S. 1138 are administered by the BLM. We defer to the Department of the Interior for their views on this portion of the Mt. Moriah proposal.

Mt. Rose: The Forest Service wilderness proposal of 19,000 acres--16,000 acres on the Toiyabe National Forest and 3,000 acres on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit--was made after reviewing extensive public comment concerning wilderness and potential conflicts with other users of the National Forest. The Final Forest Plan proposed boundary incorporates those comments by minimizing conflicts with snowmobiling and skiing. An area on the south side of Carson Range has been identified to be included in a development plan for a major ski resort. We oppose wilderness designation for the Hunter Creek block due to its small size and the difficulty of administering this parcel. We oppose the establishment of a snowmobile corridor as proposed in section 7 of the bill. We believe that ample opportunity exists for snowmobile use in surrounding areas without making an exception to the Wilderness Act.

Quinn Canyon: We oppose the designation of Quinn Canyon as a wilderness area for the following reasons: (1) it contains roads and mineral developments, thus detracting from pristine conditions; (2) The U.S. Geological Survey found a high potential for gold, silver, uranium and lead in the area; and (3) public comments during the Forest planning process revealed a high level of mineral industry opposition to wilderness designation.

Ruby Mountains: We support the designation 55,600 acres, plus the 12,300-acre Soldier Lake block, as wilderness in the Ruby Mountains. The boundaries in the Forest Plan were drawn to avoid the elimination of a commercial heli-ski operation, to avoid conflicts with the mineral industry, and to exclude private land. We believe the management of two wilderness blocks would be preferable to the management of one block with a narrow corridor of wilderness connecting the two high quality wilderness areas.

Mt. Charleston: We support wilderness designation for 42,500 acres in the Mt. Charleston area. This recommendation is based on a high level of public support for wilderness and the high quality of the area for wilderness values such as solitude, size, scenic values, and excellent opportunities for back-country recreational activities. The proposal in S. 1138 is very similar to the Forest Plan proposal. We would be happy to work with the Committee on the final map to assure an optimum wilderness boundary.

Table Mountain: We oppose the designation of Table Mountain as a wilderness area due to the intensity of ongoing and planned management programs. Many structures exist and plans are to continue watershed stabilization projects and to use prescribed burning or mechanical methods for vegetation manipulation for wildlife habitat improvement. Examples of structures include: fenced enclosures; check dams; loose rock structures for sediment control; and stream improvements for fish habitat. Rocky mountain elk were re-introduced into the Table Mountain area. The initial elk transplant consisted of 50 animals. The herd expanded rapidly to 300 animals. Prescribed fire and mechanical manipulation are both useful in managing aspen stands frequented by the elk. Many of the methods used to manage elk habitat are inconsistent with wilderness designation.

Grant Range: The Humboldt National Forest Plan recommends that 43,100 acres of the Grant Range area be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. This area enjoys a high level of public support and a high level of natural integrity and other wilderness values. The proposal in S. 1138 is very similar to the Forest Plan proposal. We would be happy to work with the Committee on the preparation of the final map to assure the best boundary for on-the-ground implementation and management.

ACREAGE SUMMARY

FOREST	AREA NAME	FINAL FP	REID S. 1138
Toiyabe	Table Mountain	0	97,000
Toiyabe	Arc Dome	94,400	82,000
Toiyabe	Mount Jefferson	31,000	39,000
Toiyabe	Mount Charleston	42,500	43,000
Toiyabe	Mount Rose	16,000	26,000
Toiyabe	Toiyabe Crest	0	0
Toiyabe	Excelsior	0	0
Toiyabe	TOTAL TOIYABE	183,900	287,000
Humboldt	Schell Peak	0	0
Humboldt	Santa Rosa	0	0
Humboldt	Quinn Canyon	0	27,000
Humboldt	Mount Moria	60,700	82,000
Humboldt	Ruby Mountains	55,600	75,000
Humboldt	Jarbidge Additions	26,400	49,000
Humboldt	East Humboldt	18,500	30,000
Humboldt	Currant Mountain	0	0
Humboldt	Grant Range	43,100	40,000
Humboldt	Soldier Lake	12,300	0
Humboldt	Elk Mountain	0	0
Humboldt	South Snake	0	0
Humboldt	TOTAL HUMBOLDT	216,600	303,000
Inyo	Boundary Peak	6,400	9,400
LTBM	Mount Rose	3,000	
Nevada	TOTAL NEVADA	409,900	599,400

FP Final Forest Plan
LTBM Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Senator **Bumpers**. Senator Hecht.

Senator **Hecht**. No thank you.

Senator **Bumpers**. Senator Wallop.

Senator **Wallop**. I ask that I be permitted to submit some questions with regards to what kind of water requirements might be implicit in this legislation, absent any concept of what Congress might seek to assert would be necessary for the purposes of the Wilderness Act.

There are about six questions that are routinely there, but I think they would aid us in addressing those issues. I do not say that we impose upon Nevada my idea of what they ought to do, but I think they ought to wake up and be heard prior to the enactment of legislation rather than subsequent to it because I know we are not going to be able to go back and address it at a future date.

Mr. Chairman I would ask that the letter from Senator McClure to the Committee Chairman with regards to the issue that Senator Murkowski raised be inserted into the record.

Senator **Bumpers**. Without objection.

[The letter referred to and responses from the Department of Agriculture follow:]

J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, LOUISIANA, CHAIRMAN

DALE BUMPERS, ARKANSAS
WENDELL H. FORD, KENTUCKY
HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, OHIO
JOHN MELCHER, MONTANA
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DANIEL J. EVANS, WASHINGTON

DARYL H. OWEN, STAFF DIRECTOR
D. MICHAEL HARVEY, CHIEF COUNSEL
FRANK M. CUSHING, STAFF DIRECTOR FOR THE MINORITY
GARY G. ELLSWORTH, CHIEF COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

July 17, 1987

The Honorable J. Bennett Johnston
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Bennett:

At your earliest convenience I would like to talk with you about the process which the Committee plans to follow with respect to legislation affecting individual States.

The traditional approach of the Committee has been to defer to the delegation and to require that the delegation resolve their differences prior to Committee action, unless both members agree to proceed. There have been instances, such as Redwoods and the d-2 lands issue, where we have felt that there were overriding considerations, but those have been very limited. Even in those instances where our concern dealt with generic issues such as boundary definition or water, we have made every effort to accommodate the desires of the delegation with respect to timing. We also have been extremely sensitive to the members of this Committee.

I understand that a hearing has been scheduled for August 4, 1987, on Senator Reid's legislation on Nevada Wilderness. Senator Hecht was not consulted and found out about the hearing from an article in the papers. One of the prerogatives of the Chairman is the scheduling of any Committee action, including hearings. However, both members of the delegation should be notified, particularly those on the Committee. There are a variety of measures likely to come before the Committee which deal exclusively with a single State, including legislation I am developing on Idaho wilderness. I would like to talk with you as soon as possible about what process the Committee plans to follow.

Sincerely yours,

James A. McClure
Ranking Minority Member

JAM:jb/af

J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, LOUISIANA, CHAIRMAN

DALE BUMPERS, ARKANSAS
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HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, OHIO
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GARY G. ELLSWORTH, CHIEF COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

September 10, 1987

Mr. Dale Robertson, Chief
Forest Service
United States Department of the Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dale:

Thank you for the Department's testimony on S. 1138, the Nevada Wilderness bill. I have enclosed several questions to be answered in writing for inclusion in the hearing record. Please submit your responses to these questions to us by Monday, September 28, 1987.

Sincerely,

Dale Bumpers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands,
National Parks and Forests

DB/dmn

Questions Submitted by Senator Malcolm Wallop
For Dale Robertson, Chief, U.S. Forest Service
S. 1138, Nevada Wilderness

For each of the areas designated as wilderness:

1) What are the purposes for which water rights are or may be necessary, if any?

2) Are those purposes primary or secondary based on the rationale of U.S. v. New Mexico?

3) If Congress were to be silent on the issue of reserved water rights, what rights do you anticipate the federal government to assert?

4) What quantification would be asserted for each such right?

5) What are the current water rights which could be affected by a federal reservation?

6) To what extent would any assertion of a reserved right affect the ability to effect an upstream exchange?

7) To what extent would any assertion of a reserved right affect the ability of an upstream water right holder to alter his use to the extent otherwise permitted under State law absent the reserved right?

8) How will the Forest Service perfect any water rights?

9) How many mining claims have proceeded to patent after they have been included in a wilderness area?

10) For each of the areas designated, what is the extent of both surface and groundwater?

11) To what extent is any of such water unappropriated?

12) Would any of the contemplated federal reserved water right purposes be recognized as a superior right under State law to other current uses?

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Washington Office
12th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

OCT 27 RECD

Reply To: 1510

Date: OCT 26 1987

Honorable Dale Bumpers
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
National Parks and Forests
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter that transmitted several questions from Senator Wallop regarding S. 1138, a bill "To designate certain lands in the State of Nevada as wilderness, and for other purposes."

In response to questions 3 and 4, we believe that decisions involving Federal water rights in wilderness should be considered on a case-by-case basis. The wilderness areas in Nevada that would be designated by S. 1138 are at the top of watersheds and encompass the headwaters of the streams within them. There is no known potential for water developments that would affect streamflow or other values in any of the areas included in the bill. Therefore, assertion of a Federal reserved water right would not be necessary for the protection of wilderness characteristics.

We strongly recommend that Nevada wilderness legislation contain a clear expression of the intent of Congress with regard to the creation or modification of such water rights. In our judgment, language such as the following would be appropriate: "Nothing in this Act shall be construed to constitute an express or implied reservation of water rights in favor of the Federal Government, as such Federal water rights are not necessary to protect the wilderness areas established under this Act due to their location at the top of their respective watersheds."

With this in mind, we believe Senator Wallop's other questions with respect to wilderness water rights in Nevada are hypothetical, since we would not intend to make any claim for water in Nevada as a result of S. 1138 or similar legislation.

Question 9 asked how many mining claims have proceeded to patent after they have been included in a wilderness area. Ten claims have completed the patent process in areas that have been designated wilderness: seven claims in the Three Sisters Wilderness in Oregon and three claims in the Frank Church/River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho. It should be noted that claims with valid existing rights have an equal right to conduct mining operations as do those that have gone to patent.

We would be pleased to discuss these or other issues with you or Senator Wallop.

Sincerely,

For F. DALE ROBERTSON
Chief

Senator **Bumpers**. Senator Murkowski.

Senator **Murkowski**. I wonder if I could ask a question, on page three, opposing the designation of Table Mountain and Toiyabe in Quinn Canyon. Can you indicate the potential mineral value of those areas?

Mr. **Robertson**. In the case of Table Mountain, there is a moderate potential for hard rock minerals and there are 362 claims.

Senator **Murkowski**. Are those patented claims?

Mr. **Robertson**. No, they are not patented.

Senator **Murkowski**. They would be foreclosed then if this area went into wilderness?

Mr. **Robertson**. If they——

Senator **Murkowski**. They have no validity in other words, they are just pending?

Mr. **Robertson**. If they do not have a point of discovery at the time that this wilderness bill passes then the mining claim would not be valid. But if they pass that point then they would continue as valid claims.

Senator **Murkowski**. Do you have any indication as to how many of them may have passed that point?

Mr. **Robertson**. No sir.

Senator **Murkowski**. Is it significant mineral development in the opinion of USGS or U.S. Division of Mines?

Mr. **Robertson**. It is moderate.

Senator **Murkowski**. Are there any strategic minerals located potentially in those areas?

Mr. **Robertson**. No.

Senator **Murkowski**. What is the area generally included, in other words, the general volume of area that you are opposing the designation inclusive of as opposed to the whole bill, whether we are talking about 409,000 or 600,000?

Mr. **Robertson**. Are you referring to Table Mountain?

Senator **Murkowski**. If you take out the area that you folks have indicated the concern about, how much area are you talking about?

Mr. **Robertson**. Table Mountain has other concerns other than just minerals, and we would not recommend any of the 97,000 acres in Table Mountain for wilderness. In addition to the minerals, this is a very productive area for elk. We transplanted some elk in 1979, which has resulted in a herd of about 300 animals, and we need to do some vegetative management in there for the perpetuation of the elk herd.

And then it is also some unstable country. We have some watershed stabilization projects in the Table Mountain area with check dams and sediment control structures. And we believe we need the option to continue that watershed work.

Senator **Murkowski**. You couldn't do that if it was a wilderness?

Mr. **Robertson**. No.

Senator **Murkowski**. You couldn't allow special hunting?

Mr. **Robertson**. Hunting could occur in a wilderness. We couldn't go in and do some of the vegetative manipulation that we think we need to do for the perpetuation of that elk herd.

Senator **Murkowski**. You indicate three reasons, potential mining development, conflicts of recreation users and conflicts with planned wildlife habitat.

Are those in an order of priority, Chief?

Mr. Robertson. Well they are all important. When we add up all three reasons, we come out that in our opinion the areas should not be wilderness.

Senator Murkowski. Okay. And that total area if you put them all together is how many acres?

Mr. Robertson. Well there are 97,000 acres proposed in S. 1138.

Senator Murkowski. And that includes Quinn Canyon and——

Mr. Robertson. No, that is just Table Mountain.

Senator Murkowski. If you put them all together, and if we followed your recommendation that we not include these four or five areas, what is that total?

Mr. Robertson. We propose 410,000 acres out of the 599,000 acres that are in the Reid bill. And that is——

Senator Murkowski. It is my understanding that 410,000 acres is to be recommended wilderness.

Mr. Robertson. That is what the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture recommends based upon our completed Forest Plans for the State of Nevada.

Senator Murkowski. As wilderness?

Mr. Robertson. As wilderness.

Senator Murkowski. Okay. But my question is: What is the total areas that you have asked not be included in that total? You said Table Mountain was 97,000.

Mr. Robertson. Yes.

Senator Murkowski. If you add the rest of them together what do you get?

Mr. Robertson. Okay, well the total difference is about 180,000 acres.

Senator Murkowski. Okay, so there are about 180,000 acres that you are asking be exempt from the bill as proposed by the, Senator Reid's bill of 600,000 acres?

Mr. Robertson. Yes. There's Table Mountain and Quinn Canyon of 27,000 acres and then the balance would be differences in boundary that we——

Senator Murkowski. I gather that the Senator from Nevada, at least one of the Senators from Nevada does not necessarily agree with your recommendations. Is that fair?

In other words if you take his 600,000 acres I assume you are going into these acres.

Senator Reid. Senator Murkowski we disagree on principally one area and it is the Table Mountain area which is very large, 100,000 acres. Quinn is small, it is 27,000 acres. And then there are other areas where they would do the boundaries differently than I.

Senator Murkowski. But you want Table Mountain in a wilderness?

Senator Reid. Yes.

Senator Murkowski. And the mining claims and so forth?

Senator Reid. The Forest Service doesn't object to the Table Mountain area on the basis of any mineral content.

Senator Murkowski. I just heard testimony that they were sensitive to Table Mountain wilderness because they thought there was a mineral potential and there were claims that would be lost.

Senator **Reid**. It is my understanding, having spoken with the Forest Service people that their principle objection is one of management.

Senator **Murkowski**. If you will pardon me, I asked the question of what the priorities were, and I gathered that the priority was minerals.

Senator **Bradley**. Why don't we ask it directly?

Senator **Murkowski**. I have already asked the question. I will be happy to ask it again.

Senator **Bradley**. I wasn't here.

Mr. **Robertson**. I mentioned three reasons why we object to Table Mountain for wilderness.

It is the need to do some watershed stabilization work, the need to do some vegetative management for elk habitat and moderate potential for hard rock minerals.

We did not prioritize those one, two, three, but when you add those together we came to the conclusion that we did not believe Table Mountain should be wilderness.

Now in Quinn Canyon, the other area that we are opposed to, it is primarily because of minerals. USGS, in that case, has classified Quinn Canyon as high potential for minerals such as gold, silver, uranium and lead. And we have 43 claims there and some mineral activities going on within that area.

Senator **Murkowski**. If I may Mr. Chairman, when I asked the question previously, and the Chief can obviously correct his remarks, I asked if these were in order of any priority. And I think the record will note that he responded by yes, I guess they are.

Senator **Wallop**. In fairness to the Chief, I do not think he did that. He said they were all important and could not prioritize. That is substantially what he said. You add them together and they come up to the reason not to designate.

Senator **Murkowski**. I would be willing to bet my friend a cup of coffee that it is more reflective of the fact that the inference was that they were prioritized in the order that they appeared in the statement. But we will get the record in a week or two.

Mr. **Robertson**. If I could just add, there is no question in Quinn Canyon, minerals are the top priority item why we do not believe that ought to be wilderness.

Senator **Bumpers**. I think the record has been established now. Senator Reid?

Senator **Reid**. I have no questions.

Senator **Bumpers**. Chief, thank you very much for being with us this morning.

Senator **Wallop**. Mr. Chairman, while they are leaving and the new witnesses are coming up let me make the observation that it can not be played both ends against the middle with regards to the question of water.

The environmental community can not sue in Federal court asserting claims to water for wilderness areas and then claim it is a subterfuge when we try to address it in the legislation that we pass. I think it is an important enough question and it does not deserve that kind of characterization.

Senator **Reid**. Senator Wallop I still say that while the witnesses are coming that water is not an issue in Nevada wilderness. If you can show me how it is an issue I would be happy to sit down and talk to you. I have talked to attorneys, I have talked to conservationists, I would be happy to sit down and talk to you. But Nevada wilderness, as indicated with your statement that the California problem, we do not have any wilderness areas that are in conflict with California water. I would be happy to talk to you——

Senator WALLOP. I am not so concerned about California water, Senator.

Senator REID. You brought it up, I did not.

Senator WALLOP. I am concerned that Nevada be heard from as to their water authority, and make the notation that there are or are not water rights within those boundaries and how they should be addressed.

Senator BUMPERS. Gentlemen, let me just say that there is going to be testimony on water rights here. This is a suitable subject for debate at mark-up. I think this morning we ought to hear from the witnesses as to their feelings about this.

Our first panel is Tebeau Piquet, First Vice President of Nevada's Association of Counties, David Fulstone, II, President of Nevada Farm Bureau, Casey Shpall, Staff Attorney, Mountain States Legal Foundation, L. Bryant Williams, Jr. Western Exploration Division Manager, Exxon Corporation, Don Ernest, Resident Manager of Sunshine Mining Company of Silver Peak, Nevada.

I will take these by the way they are shown here, Mr. Piquet first.

STATEMENT OF TEBEAU PIQUET, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Mr. PIQUET. Gentlemen, Committee members, thank you for this opportunity.

For the record I am Tebeau Piquet, Humboldt County Commissioner, and 1st Vice President of the State of Nevada's Association of Counties, which is a governing body that represents all seventeen counties within the State of Nevada or the primary political subdivisions that this legislation will affect. Nevada Association of Counties opposes S. 1138.

The economic well being of Nevada, particularly its more rural communities depend heavily on the access to and the use of public lands for mining, ranching and recreation. The loss would be harmful not only to this state, but the nation as well. As elected officials we are charged with this responsibility of insuring access to public lands. Access today as we know it is a very important part of our quality of life, whether it be for recreation, outdoor sports, agriculture or mineral exploration. A large majority of all the jobs in America are a result of mining or agriculture in some form or another.

I can speak of the devastating effect upon the local economy when our mining or ranching heritage is potentially pre-empted by the legislation that would have otherwise allowed access to the multiple use of Federal lands for mineral, geothermal, recreational and agricultural purposes. In other words, we are talking about the economic dependency, the lifeline of Nevada's counties.

We are cautious in our support, as further legislation that could potentially impose restrictions have yet to be presented by the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Energy, the Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, the National Wildlife Refuge Concern, and the Department of Defense.

We believe in a coordinated multi-agency plan. Without this, we must endorse a conservative wilderness bill that will allow us to be minimally impacted and that designates lands not simply for the sake of increasing wilderness acreage or the filling of a perceived quota. We know that the Bureau of Land Management will be proposing another four million acres of wilderness in a year or so.

I spoke of the interest in Nevada and its people earlier, and I hope that with this in mind this Committee will act accordingly and support the State of Nevada's Assembly Joint Resolution Number One, passed in the 63rd Nevada legislature with only three dissenting votes. This Resolution was also signed by Governor Richard Bryan.

The attached resolutions show the overwhelming support by all of Nevada's legislative branch and all the elected officials within Nevada's counties concerning this issue.

I personally challenge the philosophy that no management is good for wildlife and the land. Our lifestyles and economies dictate multiple use as much as possible to insure our quality of life.

Thank you.

[The resolutions follow:]

NACO
NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
308 NORTH CURRY STREET, SUITE 205 • CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
(702) 883-7863

RESOLUTION NO. 10-85

REGARDING DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN NEVADA BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

WHEREAS, all of Nevada's counties will be directly or indirectly affected by any Nevada Wilderness Protection Act passed by the Congress of the United States,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Nevada Association of Counties to endorse and support S.722 and H.R.1686 introduced by the Nevada Congressional Delegation creating 136,900 acres of national wilderness area in Nevada.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of September, 1985 by the following vote of the full Board at their Annual Business Meeting in Minden, Nevada.

AYES: 20
NAYS: 2 (Humboldt and Clark Counties)
ABSENT: 1 (Manual Cortez)

Board of Nevada Association
of Counties

President

ATTEST:

Board Secretary

SUMMARY: SUPPORTS THE BILL SUBMITTED IN THE SENATE BY SENATORS LAXALT AND HECHT AND IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY REPRESENTATIVE VUCANOVICH REGARDING AN ADDITION TO WILDERNESS IN NEVADA.

Resolution No. 1-6-86

WHEREAS, Nevada currently has a Wilderness Area designated Jarbidge Wilderness, which comprises 64,667 acres; and

WHEREAS, the additions proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich would increase the area designated Wilderness to 132,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, any additional designation in Nevada over that proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich would create unreasonable, adverse impacts on the residents of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the adverse impacts of additional Wilderness designation in Nevada over that proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich include, but are not limited to the following: deterioration of Nevada economy, severe curtailing of livestock grazing, restrictions on water rights, reduction in ranching, reduction in mining, and reduction in recreation; and

WHEREAS, because of the above stated adverse impacts that would be imposed on Nevada residents with an additional designation of Wilderness over that proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich, the reasons supporting only the addition to Wilderness in Nevada as proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich are reasonable and the action is herein justified.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, NEVADA, AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:

1. The additional Wilderness proposed by

Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Respresentative Vucanovich is supported.

2. Any additional Wilderness in Nevada over that proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich is opposed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on January 6, 1986.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, NEVADA

By Lebeau Piquet

Sammye Ugalde

Darrell L Tyler

ATTEST:

Susan E Harrer
SUSAN E. HARRER, County Clerk

Senator BUMPERS. Thank you Mr. Piquet.

Mr. Fulstone.

STATEMENT OF DAVID F. FULSTONE II, PRESIDENT, NEVADA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Mr. FULSTONE. I am Dave Fulstone, President of Nevada Farm Bureau and I would like to also present testimony for the record from the Nevada Cattlemen's Association.

Senator BUMPERS. It will be entered in the record without objection.

Mr. FULSTONE. The Nevada Farm Bureau Federation is an organization of county farm bureaus, the voting members of which are farmers and ranchers. It is the only general agricultural organization in Nevada and nearly all grazing permittees whose livelihood will be impacted by this proposed legislation are Farm Bureau members.

We oppose the creating of wilderness areas. Why, because we fear that such designation will result in degradation of the resource and harm those who depend upon a healthy and safe environment.

The nature of agriculture is to beneficially manage resources so that productivity is increased. This translates into plentiful food and fiber for humans and feed for animals both domestic and wild.

On the other hand, the no management concept of wilderness provides the prospect of watershed deterioration, fires, soil erosion, sanitation problems, and the creation of refuges for predators, noxious weeds and insects.

Less this sound conjectural, let me cite just four examples of what we fear.

One, smoke is still rising from fire which consumed 24 homes and severely damaged six more in the beautiful eastern Sierra Nevada mountains within site of Gardnerville on a recent day.

Number two, recurrences of bubonic plagues are found in the Mount Rose area, a disease transmitted to humans from fleas associated with rodents.

Number three, leafy spurge, more aptly referred to as leafy scourge, is a noxious weed which defies control methods and has already devastated range land in northeastern Nevada, particular in the Memorial Canyon area.

Number four, the establishment of the Hoover Wilderness area near Yosemite National Park has caused relocation of sensors which previously transmitted precipitation data necessary for agriculture and municipal water management. The use of snowmobiles and helicopters for moisture data collection purposes was precluded as well. I want to stress that point number four. Because all of our snow fall, electronic water forecasting equipment is in all these high areas of Nevada that we are talking about. We are basically talking about all the watershed area.

Despite any inconsistencies in management styles or philosophies of resource managers or disputes between users and these managers, the ranges of Nevada are undoubtedly better today than 100 years ago. This is due to the the partnership that has been forged between users and these managers and the acceptance of multiple use management strategies. S. 1138 does provide the continuances established in section six, but we must point out the onerous difficulties in practicing modern animal husbandry without the use of motorized vehicles.

We note the favor of prohibition of buffer zones in S. 1138 and appreciate that. We vigorously protest the language in section nine as far as water rights. And I too would like to stress that. Wilderness areas, this is a real problem. We have the priority basis in Nevada and this would create an automatic right and it would disrupt a hundred years of water law within our state.

Accordingly we request that the bill and all other wilderness legislation be deferred until final resolution of the district court decision which tell the federal reserve water rights exists for wilderness areas.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we accept the fact that wilderness areas in Nevada will ultimately be created. But we predict that when the populous realizes the wilderness areas can not be equated with National Parks and Forest lands which allow for relative ease of access, then we will be reconsidering the dimensions of what S. 1138 proposes to do in Nevada.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Fulstone on behalf of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association follows:]

TESTIMONY

on behalf of

NEVADA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

before the

United States Senate
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Public Lands Subcommittee

on

Senator Reid. Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1987

by

Dave Fulstone
President
Nevada Farm Bureau

August 4, 1987

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association is the State Spokesman for all segments of the beef cattle industry. The Nevada Cattlemen's Association represents approximately 650 cattlemen. Membership includes individual members, breed representatives and business/associate members.

NvCA appreciates the opportunity to participate in this important hearing today.. My name is Dave Fulstone, speaking on behalf of the NvCA. I am a farmer from Yerington, Nevada and President of the Nevada Farm Bureau.

NvCA opposes S. 1138. (Reid) Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1987.

Let me first state that preservation of the pristine qualities of Nevada's outdoors is of upmost concern to livestock grazers in Nevada. We recognize the need to provide quality recreational areas for urban and rural outdoor enthusiasts. We further acknowledge that these qualities can be preserved under multiple use land management to the advantage and improvement of range quality.

NvCA emphatically states that S. 1138 removes excessive amounts of quality land from multiple use, and accessibility for the majority to selective single use by a limited minority. Stated policy from Nevada Cattlemen's Association and Nevada Wool Growers Association supports the concept of a limited amount of wilderness however the Associations do not support future wilderness designation until such language is developed which includes but is not limited to:

1. Recognition of state water rights
2. Establishment of the use of pesticides and herbicides as management tools
3. Provision for the release of lands for strategic mineral development
4. Provision for the use of traditional predatory animal control methods
5. Authorization for the timely use of motorized-mechanized equipment for such use as livestock management, range development, fence maintenance and predator control
6. No allowance for Buffer Zones around the wilderness areas
7. Provision for increased grazing whenever range conditions allow

The NvCA has appointed a special task force to investigate wilderness designation in Nevada. The following recommendations have been presented and approved by the Board of Directors, May 1987. The approach is presented to mitigate undesireable features of vast wilderness areas, while enlisting the support of urban dwellers and organizations interested in outdoor recreation.

1. Support wilderness designation for limited areas that have outstanding characteristics needing protection and preservation for posterity.

    A. However, at the same time insisting that:

        (a) Multiple use has and can continue to better serve needs of the United States and the people thereof, than complete wilderness designation of vast areas.

(b) State water law be adequately recognized and spelled out in any specific wilderness legislation.

(c) The Secretaries be encouraged to take realistic measures to solve fire, insect, and disease problems in wilderness areas. This authority exists under Special Provisions Section (d) of the Wilderness Act of 1964

(d) While wilderness does supply recreation to a small elite group of people in a specific economic and age range, it does not meet the demands of the great majority seeking outdoor recreation.

B. The various livestock organizations do not, at this time, need to suggest or approve of specific acreages or areas, but stand willing to work with other organizations and interests.

2. The Committee recognizes that outdoor recreation is essential to the well being of numerous individuals. So therefore, in lieu of massive wilderness, we support a national policy aimed at providing accessible, affordable outdoor recreation to families, job-holders, under-privileged, elderly, handicapped and other urban residents.

A. Some private property has recreation potential. Private property owners should not be burdened by condemnation but should have the right to dispose of their property as they please. Therefore, States, Counties and municipalities needing recreation sites or access be encouraged to deal directly with appropriate property owners under the free market system.

B. If access to recreation areas through private property is necessary, adequate protection against liability and damage must be assured the property owner.

C. These recreation sites will be expensive. Funding should come from a combination of Federal, State, Local and user fee sources, not through a property tax. Sites should be obtained and managed locally and money must be available for purchase of access and maintenance of new and existing facilities as well as for obtaining new sites.

Mr. Chairman, our goals are very similar only the means to reach them may be somewhat different. Alternatives to massive single-use land lock are available. Thank you for providing the Nevada Cattlemen's Association with the opportunity to express our position regarding Nevada Wilderness.

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you.
Ms. Shpall.

STATEMENT OF CASEY SHPALL, STAFF ATTORNEY, MOUNTAIN STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION

Ms. **Shpall**. Good morning. I am from Mountain States Legal Foundation and we appreciate the opportunity to testify before this subcommittee.

Mountain States is a non-profit public interest law foundation dedicated to private property rights and freedom of enterprise.

The reason we are here testifying today is mainly on the reserved rights water issue. We are a party in the Sierra Club versus Block case, wherein Judge Cain declared a Federal Reserve water right for wilderness, and I note that S. 1138 contains the exact same language as did the Colorado Wilderness Act whereby Judge Cain declared the existence of a reserved right. So I think although it may not be a big issue and it can be resolved, it needs to be resolved.

I think the language in the House bill 2142 proposed by Representative Bilbray is pretty good, I think that would probably do the job. And it says nothing in this act shall be construed as to limit the exercise of valid water rights provided under Nevada State law, nor shall it constitute an express or implied reservation of water in favor of the Federal Government. I think that would pretty much resolve the problem for the state of Nevada and any other state.

I think that the legislative history of the wilderness act makes clear that there was no contemplation that water would ever be reserved upon designation as a wilderness area. And numerous people I have talked to who were involved in the compromises made in the 1964 act said that the act never would have been passed had anyone suspected that water rights be reserved under wilderness designation.

There are a couple of other issues that I wanted to address. One of them was touched on by Senator Hecht and that concerns the fact that wilderness designation takes land out of multiple use status and puts it into single use wilderness status.

This adversely affects the economic base of the state because you no longer get state receipts for schools and roads. And wilderness use is not a economically creating viable use. 600,000 acres is a lot of acres to be putting in a single use designation.

I know Senator Reid is encouraging passage of this bill so that land not designated can be returned to multiple use. Unfortunately there is no state that has passed a wilderness bill that has succeeded in returning land to full multiple use. There are still access problems in roadless area, environmental groups file suit every time a roadless area is tried to be used for mining, agricultural, timber cutting.

I think there needs to be some type of strong clear release language in all wilderness bills and I think the language in this one is not enough.

All the forest plans are going to be challenged that try to use these areas for multiple use, and I think that's an issue that needs to be dealt with.

In conclusion I think both the water issue, the release language need to be addressed more forcefully in order to give some certainty to those who rely on the public lands for their livelihoods. And I think once these two areas are taken care of, I think that will be better for the state of Nevada and all those who are interested in acquiring wilderness rights for that state.

Thank you.

Senator BUMPERS. Thank you Ms. Shpall.

Mr. Williams.

STATEMENT OF L. BRYANT WILLIAMS, JR., MANAGER, WESTERN EXPLORATION DIVISION, EXXON CO., USA

Mr. WILLIAMS. My name is Bryant Williams, I am manager of Exxon USA's Western Exploration Division. We have responsibility for exploration on-shore in all the western states including the state of Nevada. I am testifying on behalf of Exxon. In addition, Exxon is a member of the American Petroleum Institute, and the International Association of Geophysical Contractors. I would like to submit a written statement from API and IAGC for the record.

Senator BUMPERS. Without objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today and to convey Exxon's interest in the Nevada wilderness issue. From our viewpoint, many of the Nevada wilderness proposals, including S. 1138, would lock up excessive acreage and exploration opportunities.

Exxon's position on this issue can be briefly summarized as follows.

1. Wilderness decisions should give consideration to all public benefits including potential natural resources.
2. Oil and gas exploration and development are compatible with other land uses and can be conducted with minimal impact on the land and the environment.
3. A few of the areas under consideration for wilderness designation in Nevada have the potential to yield significant oil and gas resources, and it would be inappropriate to designate these areas as wilderness.
4. These potential resources are important to the state of Nevada and to the nation.

We recognize the difficulty you face in determining which areas and what quantities of land are appropriately suited for wilderness designation. These decisions must take into consideration the potential for and benefits from multiple use.

Our analyses indicate that selected portions of lands under consideration for wilderness designation in Nevada are appropriately suited for multiple use due to their potential economic value.

Examples of such lands currently under consideration for wilderness withdrawal are the Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and the Currant Mountain areas. It's very much in the national interest for the oil and gas industry to have the opportunity to explore in areas of significant potential.

Once such lands are designated as wilderness, the opportunity to discover new oil and gas reserves is lost forever. Each of the three areas mentioned contains geologic formations which could reservoir substantial amounts of recoverable oil and gas reserves.

We committed to a Nevada program in 1984 and others in our industry have been there a lot longer. The benefit to the nation is obvious. The state and local economies have received some $7 million in 1986 and there is more to come if we had a major discovery in the state.

The exploration activities are compatible with other land uses. If we make a discovery, development can be carefully planned and executed with substantial attention to environmental protection.

In conclusion, Exxon and others in the industry have invested a significant amount of money in an attempt to find oil and gas in large quantities in Nevada. It is important to reiterate that Exxon believes the Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and Currant Mountain areas have sufficient oil and gas potential. We strongly urge you to eliminate these limited areas as wilderness candidates.

If Congress decides to categorize these high potential lands as wilderness, valuable energy resources may be lost forever, and the potential benefits to the state and the nation never realized.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Williams follow:]

TESTIMONY OF
L. BRYANT WILLIAMS, JR.
ON NEVADA WILDERNESS
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS & FORESTS OF THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
AUGUST 4, 1987

My name is Bryant Williams, and I am manager of Exxon Company, U.S.A.'s Western Exploration Division. The Western Division has responsibility for all onshore exploration activities in the western United States, including Nevada.

I am testifying on behalf of Exxon. In addition, Exxon is a member of the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC), and I would like to submit a written statement from API and IAGC for the record.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today and to convey Exxon's interest in the Nevada wilderness issue. From our viewpoint, many of the Nevada wilderness proposals, including S.1138, would lock up excessive acreage and exploration opportunities. Exxon's position on this issue can be briefly summarized as follows:

(1) Wilderness decisions should give consideration to all public benefits, including potential natural resources;

(2) Oil and gas exploration and development are compatible with other land uses, and can be conducted with minimal impact on the land and the environment;

(3) A few of the areas under consideration for wilderness designation in Nevada have the potential to yield significant oil and gas resources, and it would be inappropriate to designate these areas as wilderness; and

(4) These potential resources are important to the state of Nevada and to the nation.

Wilderness Decisions

We recognize the difficulty you face in determining which areas and what quantities of land are appropriately suited for wilderness designation. These decisions must take into consideration the potential for and benefits from multiple use. Our analyses indicate that selected portions of the lands under consideration for wilderness designation in Nevada are appropriately suited for multiple use, due to their potential economic value.

The various Nevada bills propose wilderness systems ranging from about 132,000 acres to 1.4 million acres. We are not in a position to determine what is an appropriate amount of wilderness for Nevada. This must be done by Nevadans and the Congress. However, we can assist in recommending areas that should not be permanently withdrawn from multiple use access. Examples of such lands currently under consideration for wilderness withdrawal are the Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and Currant Mountain areas. We strongly urge you to eliminate these areas from consideration for wilderness designation.

Oil and Gas Potential

It is very much in the national interest for the oil and gas industry to be given the opportunity to explore in areas of significant potential. Once such lands are designated as wilderness, the opportunity to discover new oil and gas reserves is lost forever. Each of the three areas I've mentioned---Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and Currant Mountain---contains geologic formations which could reservoir substantial recoverable oil and gas reserves. Interest in the three potential wilderness areas has been heightened by recent oil discoveries in Railroad Valley near the Grant Range. Four commercial oil fields are currently producing in Railroad Valley. One of the wells, Grant Canyon Number Three, is the highest volume daily onshore oil producer in the nation at 4,000 barrels per day.

National and Local Benefits

We committed to a Nevada program beginning in 1984, others have been there longer, and despite spending reductions in the industry's domestic exploration programs, the interest in Nevada has remained relatively strong.

The nation will potentially benefit from these activities. During the recent period of apparent oversupply and relatively stable oil prices, it may have been difficult to foresee the need to increase this country's energy reserve base. If the United States is to reduce or limit its potential exposure to foreign supply interruptions, it must include among its policies a willingness to permit oil and gas exploration in areas of high potential. With our dependency on foreign imports growing once again (to one-third of our daily energy needs), it is prudent to make public lands with the potential to add to our domestic source of supply available for exploration. In fact, recent studies by the Department of Energy and the National Petroleum Council have projected that the nation's import dependency could rise to 50-60 percent by 1995, with Mideast supplies contributing a growing portion of our total imports.

The state and local economies would benefit from additional oil and gas activity in Nevada. Substantial benefits to the local economy accrue long before a discovery. We estimate that industry has spent $150 million in Nevada over the last several years. Clearly, a significant portion of these dollars remained in the state through creation of local jobs; expenditures on equipment, supplies, transportation, and lodging needs; and state and local taxes. In addition to income from production, the state received $7.1 million as its share of rentals and royalties paid from federal leases in the state.

The drilling trend in the 1983-85 period, showing substantial growth in the number of wells drilled each year (1983 - 9; 1984 - 22; 1985 - 34), confirms that others in the oil industry share Exxon's belief in the high oil and gas potential for the state. The level of seismic activity has also been on a general upward trend in Nevada, increasing about 20 percent each year during the same period. This trend is even more impressive when viewed against the 35 to 40 percent reduction in seismic activity which occurred in 1985 in the Rocky Mountains. In addition, there has been substantial leasing in the state, another indication of high interest by industry. Although the national downturn in the industry was reflected in Nevada in 1986, a resurgence in exploration activity in the state is forecast for 1987-88, based on stabilizing oil prices.

Multiple Use Compatibility

Such exploration activities are compatible with other land uses. The activities are temporary, conducted carefully under a broad range of environmental and wildlife protection measures, and leave no permanent impacts on the land. If a discovery is made, development is carefully planned and executed with substantial attention to environmental protection. The industry, in cooperation with state and federal governments, has proven time and again that oil and gas development is compatible with other public land uses. Federal laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and many others provide extensive protection for the nation's public lands. It is thus not necessary to classify land areas such as Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and Currant Mountain as wilderness to ensure that surface and environmental resources are protected.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Exxon and others in industry have invested a significant amount of money in an attempt to find oil and gas in Nevada. My company, although it has not made any discoveries to date, is prepared to continue its exploration effort in the state. It is important to reiterate that Exxon believes the Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and Currant Mountain areas have significant oil and gas potential. We strongly urge you to eliminate these limited areas as wilderness candidates. If the Congress decides to categorize these high potential lands as wilderness, we believe that future exploratory activity in Nevada will be substantially limited, valuable energy resources may be lost forever, and potential benefits to the state and the nation will never be realized.

I thank you for considering our interest in this issue and will be glad to respond to questions.

STATEMENT

of the

AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

and the

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOPHYSICAL CONTRACTORS

on
S. 1138
Nevada Wilderness Protection Act

submitted to the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,
NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

Washington, D.C.
August 4, 1987

The American Petroleum Institute (API) and the International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC) appreciate the opportunity to present our comments in opposition to S. 1138, the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1987, for the hearing record.

The API is a national trade association comprised of some 200 companies and more than 5,000 individuals engaged in petroleum exploration, production, transportation, refining and marketing in the United States. Many members of the Institute are particularly interested in petroleum operations -- present and future -- on federal lands, including lands in Nevada. Keeping those lands open to crude oil and natural gas exploration and production, however, is not simply an issue of importance to the petroleum industry; it is a matter of great importance to the economic and energy security of this nation.

The IAGC, based in Denver, Colorado is a trade association representing the independent service companies and geophysical departments of integrated oil companies. These companies do virtually all of the geophysical exploration in search of new oil and gas drilling prospects in the United States and about ninety-five percent of this work in the non-communist world. IAGC presently has 161 member companies.

The National Wilderness Preservation System, originally designed by Congress to include approximately 9 million acres of designated wilderness lands, has already burgeoned in size to more than 89 million acres. That growth has not been by huge single additions -- with the exception of the 1980 Alaska lands legislation. Rather, the growth has been through incremental additions made year after year, in the manner envisioned in the proposed legislation. As a consequence, the mineral resource base open to discovery and development has become increasingly smaller.

This piecemeal enroachment on the nation's petroleum resource base is both short-sighted and counterproductive. S. 1138 proposes to close 599,400 acres of federal lands in Nevada to energy development and multiple use. This comes at a time when:

- o over 40 percent of federal onshore lands are already expressly closed to petroleum exploration and development and millions of additional acres are effectively closed by regulations and stipulations constraining such development,
- o there has been a sharp downturn in domestic petroleum exploration,
- o America's reliance on imported oil is increasing dramatically, and
- o government should be encouraging rather than discouraging such exploration.

Federal Lands Closed or Restricted

The federal government is the nation's largest landowner. According to the most recent data from the General Services Administration, the government owns nearly one-third of all the land within the 50 states -- some 727 million of the nation's 2.3 billion onshore acres. In some states -- primarily in the western states and Alaska -- federal land ownership runs higher than 50 percent. In Nevada, where the proposed legislation would apply, the federal government owns more than 85 percent of the land.

By the government's own estimate, federal lands onshore and offshore may contain as much as 85 percent of the nation's remaining crude oil and 40 percent of the remaining natural gas resources. Yet, oil companies currently are not allowed to conduct oil and gas activities on some 300 million acres -- more than 40 percent -- of the government's onshore lands. These lands are closed by direct legislative or administrative action.

Moreover, an additional 20 percent of all federal onshore lands -- while technically "open" to oil and natural gas operations under existing laws -- are effectively closed by regulations or lease stipulations which severely restrict such activities.

Laws and regulations that arbitrarily withdraw federal lands from oil and gas activities fail to recognize the compatibility of energy activities and environmental protection. Oil and gas operations can and do exist in sensitive environments. The passage of S. 1138 would lock up any potential resources of over one-half million acres of federal lands in Nevada without regard to benefits those resources could bring to the American people.

Certainly this is not the time for such unwarranted and ill-advised land withdrawals.

Declining Domestic Exploration and Production

The collapse of oil prices worldwide in 1986 -- following five years of gradual decline -- dealt a severe blow to the domestic petroleum industry. Between February and December of 1986, U.S. oil production fell almost 10 percent, drilling activity dropped to historic lows and well completions recorded their largest annual decline ever:

- the average annual number of rotary rigs in action drilling for oil and natural gas in the United States declined from 1,950 in 1985 (it had been as high as 4,520 in December 1981) to 964 in 1986, and fell further to 826 during the first three months of 1987; and

- there were 71,539 well completions in the United States in 1985 (down from a record 91,600 in 1981) and that number dropped sharply in 1986 to 42,387 -- a decline extending into first quarter 1987, when 9,656 wells were completed versus 14,723 well completions in the year-earlier corresponding quarter.

As a result of falling crude oil prices, literally tens of thousands of marginally producing wells -- "strippers" producing less than 10 barrels of oil a day -- were closed down, many permanently, as the cost of production exceeded the price received for the produced oil. Thousands of independent producers went out of business, many petroleum industry support and service companies closed down their operations, and more than 120,000 petroleum exploration and production workers lost their jobs -- a trend which continued into 1987 when, in just the first three months, nearly 50,000 more jobs were lost.

While the state of the industry became increasingly depressed, American consumers reacted to the lower prices by purchasing more petroleum products.

The Threat of Growing Oil Import Dependence

There was a 3 percent jump in domestic demand in 1986. Oil imports grew nearly 25 percent and even more significantly imports from the politically unstable Persian Gulf area increased 200 percent. These consumption trends -- mirrored in other oil-consuming nations of the free world -- are continuing in 1987, and the implications for America's energy security are deeply troublesome.

In 1985, oil imports filled 31.5 percent of U.S. demand, a figure which grew to 37.2 percent in 1986. Moreover, U.S. dependence on OPEC nations -- including the Arab oil-producing countries -- could reach record levels in less than five years. Industry, academic and government sources agree that, if current U.S. production and consumption trends continue, oil imports could account for almost half of U.S. demand by 1990 and more than two-thirds of demand by the year 2000, just 13 years from now.

The cushion of supply between today's production and tomorrow's dangerously tight market amounts to only about 4 million to 6 million barrels a day of increased total world demand for oil. And demand for oil imports by the United States alone could increase by that amount in four to five years. In 1986, this country increased its demand for oil imports by over 1 million barrels a day, and first quarter 1987 figures showed imports running 20 percent higher than for the comparable period in 1986.

Thus, it is a matter of importance to all Americans for the federal government to act now to help assure that there will be secure supplies of oil for future needs. Those future supplies will come from frontier areas; such as federal lands in Nevada, which remain unexplored. This is particularly urgent because of the long lead times -- as much as 10 to 15 years -- needed to find and produce oil and natural gas, once a lease is obtained.

Conclusion

The petroleum industry opposes federal policies that arbitrarily withdraw lands from oil and gas exploration and development. The industry has shown through its record of working in environmentally sensitive areas -- whether in arctic Alaska, in federal waters off the coasts of the United States or in the western states -- that petroleum operations are compatible with environmental protection. Legislation such as S. 1138, which proposes vast additions to the wilderness system, fails to recognize this compatibility of uses.

It is not an either/or proposition and there is no reason to foreclose additional federal lands to petroleum exploration and development. Rather, the remaining federal lands should be used to maximize the benefits they can produce for all Americans. But, in order to do this, those lands such as those in Nevada, must be open to exploration and -- if that exploration results in the discovery of commercial quantities of oil and natural gas -- to development.

This nation simply cannot afford to continue with policies that close off millions of acres of federal land. It is not in the long-term interest of this nation nor in the interest of American consumers to add to the already vast acreage placed off-limits to energy development.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on S. 1138, the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act. API and IAGC urge the members of the Subcommittee to oppose S. 1138.

Senator BUMPERS. Thank you Mr. Williams.
Mr. Ernest.

STATEMENT OF DONALD F. ERNEST, RESIDENT MANAGER, SUNSHINE MINING CO.

Mr. ERNEST. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I have submitted written testimony for the record also.

My name is Don Ernest, I am resident manager of Sunshine Mining Company's Silver Peak operations and also chairman of the committee on wilderness and public lands for the Nevada Mining Association.

The concept of mineral potential is widely misunderstood. To say that an area has a high mineral potential does not require that the area have either an existing mine, or an ore body awaiting development. Likewise the absence of mines or known mineral deposits in an area does not mean that the area lacks mineral potential.

The harsh reality is the estimation of mineral potential is often based almost totally upon geological interpretation rather than obvious surface evidence. Current geological sites, models, tools and techniques are resulting in discoveries of major mines in areas which prior to discovery had few claims and in which in some instances had been prospected for more than 100 years.

The areas around Newmont's Carlin deposits and FMS's Paradise Peak operation are testimonies to this fact. Thus Congress should be fully aware of the economic loss to Nevada when mineralized lands are put off limits for exploration, development and production. Even when the potential of some of these lands appears to be less than favorable on the surface.

I might add that the mineral studies underway by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines have not been completed for all the areas that are included in this bill.

A single medium sized, say one million ounce gold deposit can bring significant benefits to rural counties. Typically a high risk investment in such a deposit may yield a gross production revenue of $450 million. By far the greatest portion of this revenue will be spent in Nevada for labor, equipment, supplies, services and taxes. Individual communities benefit from such projects in additional ways, apart from employment sites for residents.

Community services are often upgraded, such as the badly needed improvement to the town of Tonopah's water system, which were largely funded by the Anaconda company in 1980. Or the renovation and current maintenance of the Silver Peak Swimming pool, an effort totally funded by Foote Mineral Company and Sunshine Mining Company.

These are benefits which the two towns will enjoy long after the deposits are depleted and the mines are reclaimed. Mining professionals predict that numerous such mines can be developed during the next two decades if some of the best hunting ground is not dedicated to wilderness. It is acutely irresponsible for Congress to allow even one of these deposits to be lost as a resource because of carelessly chosen or premature wilderness designation.

The Nevada Mining Commission contends that seven of the proposed areas in Senate bill 1138 possess documented high mineral potential. These proposed areas are Alta Toquima, Arc Dome, Grant, Quinn Canyon, Table Mountain, Ruby Mountains and East Humboldts.

The Nevada Mining Association strongly supports the inclusion of language in all wilderness legislation which guarantees the waters owned by the State of Nevada and water rights held by the private sector are not placed in jeopardy by wilderness designation.

Senate bill 1138 lacks the necessary language to protect these rights. The Nevada Mining Association believe that water is an issue.

In summary, the Nevada Mining Association opposes S. 1138. Individual areas should receive wilderness designation if and only if the wilderness values of these areas outweigh the public benefits which could be realized from multiple use management.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Ernest follows:]

SENATE COMMITTEE
Hearing on S.1138
August 4, 1987

Testimony Of:	Donald F. Earnest - Chairman, Resident Manager Sunshine Mining Company Silver Peak, Nevada	Committee on Wilderness and Public Lands Nevada Mining Association

As Congress examines legislation to convert certain Nevada forest roadless areas into formal wilderness sites, the decision-making process has become polarized by differing political philosophies concerning the amounts of land which may be removed from multiple resource use. Because of this polarization, some participants in the wilderness designation process have lost sight of an essential and fundamental objective. This objective must be to identify and recommend only those lands best suited for wilderness and, equally important, least likely to disrupt the basic economy of Nevada's rural counties.

Most of rural Nevada suffers from the common problem of funding local government infrastructures, such as hospitals, water and sewage systems, police and fire protection, streets, libraries, and other community amenities. Traditionally and today local governments must depend upon tax revenues generated from the use of public lands by mining, ranching, farming, hunting, and general recreation interests. The withdrawl of lands for wilderness which possess high mineral or oil and gas potential will cause irreparable short and long term injury to Nevada's mining industry, which combined with ranching is the primary economic base for more than half of Nevada's counties.

The concept of mineral potential is widely misunderstood. To say that an area has a high mineral potential does not require that the area have either an existing mine or an orebody awaiting development. Likewise, the absence of mines or known mineral deposits in an area does not mean that the area lacks mineral potential. The harsh reality is that an estimation of mineral potential is often based almost totally upon geological interpretation, rather than obvious surface evidence. Current geological insights, models, tools, and techniques are resulting in discoveries of major mines in areas which prior to discovery had few claims, and which in some instances have been prospected for more than 100 years. The areas around Newmont's Carlin deposits and FMC's Paradise Peak Operation are testimonies to this fact. Thus, Congress should be fully aware of the economic loss to Nevada when mineralized lands are put off limits to exploration, development, and production, even when the potential of these lands appears to be less than favorable on the surface.

For example: A single medium-sized (one million ounce) gold deposit can bring significant benefits to rural counties. Typically, a high-risk investment in such a deposit may yield a gross production revenue of $450 million. By far the greatest portion of this revenue will be spent in Nevada for labor, equipment, supplies, services, and taxes. Individual communities benefit from such projects in additional ways, apart from employment sites for residents. Community services are often upgraded, such as the badly-needed improvements to Tonopah's water system, which were largely funded by the Anaconda Company in 1980. Or the renovation and current maintenance of the Silver Peak swimming pool, an effort funded totally by Foote Mineral Company and Sunshine Mining Company. These are benefits which the two towns will enjoy long after the deposits are depleted and the mines are reclaimed. Mining professionals predict that numerous such mines can be developed during the next two decades - if some of the best hunting ground is not dedicated to wilderness. It is acutely irresponsible if Congress allows even one of these deposits to be lost as a resource because of carelessly chosen or premature wilderness designation.

The Nevada Mining Association contends that seven of the proposed areas in Senate Bill 1138 possess documented high mineral potential. These proposed areas are Alta Toquima, Arc Dome, Grant, Quinn Canyon, Table Mountain, Ruby Mountains, And East Humboldts. Additionally, the oil and gas potential of the Grant and Quinn Canyon areas is very high. Oil and gas revenues are of tremendous importance to the State of Nevada - 50% of all leasing and royalty fees collected by the Federal Government goes into our State Distributive Education Fund.

Other industries in Nevada share our concerns over the wilderness issue. The Nevada Mining Association supports the policy of the National Cattlemen's Association, the National Farm Bureau, the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, and the Nevada Farm Bureau, a policy which emphasises the need for guaranteed vehicle access to all existing roads and ways for the maintenance and construction of fences, water facilities, and other historic uses associated with the production of livestock. Vehicular access must be guaranteed for fire suppression and search and rescue equipment, predator control, and management of wildlife.

The Nevada Mining Association strongly supports the inclusion of language in all wilderness legislation which guarantees that waters owned by the State of Nevada and water rights held by the private sector are not placed in jeopardy by wilderness designation. Senate Bill 1138 lacks the necessary language to protect these rights.

In summary, individual areas should receive wilderness designation if and only if the wilderness values of these areas outweigh the public benefits which could be realized from multiple use management.

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you very much Mr. Ernest. Let me also say that the subcommittee has received statements which will be admitted to the record from the American Mining Congress regarding the mineral potential for these areas.[1]

Your last statement was particularly good Mr. Ernest because that is exactly what Congress has to do in every case, and that is balance out the interests that we think are long term for this country. The fact that an area may have some potential for oil or gas Mr. Williams or a potential for some mining, some hard rock minerals or whatever does not necessarily mean that this area ought not to be included in a wilderness area.

If the potential were great enough and the demand for that particular mineral or oil or gas were great enough, then of course it would weigh very heavily in our deliberations and in our consideration.

What we always have to do here as hopefully responsible elected officials—nobody much likes Congress but they elect us—is balance as best we can what the nation's long terms interests are. Remembering the words of a great English philosopher, or maybe it was Dale Bumpers, I forget which, who said there is nothing more utterly impossible than undoing that which is already done. And so when you rush to judgment on a wilderness area, you at least are preserving an option.

Whereas if you rush to judgment the other way, you have eliminated an option. That is one of the reasons I come down on the side of wilderness. Not because I want to lock up oil and gas potential or mineral interests forever, but it is just that I belong to the wait just a minute club before we go into some pristine areas and destroy something that will be destroyed forever.

The point has been made here that Nevada is going to have a wilderness area of some kind. If not this year next year, if not next year, the next year. At some point it will happen. And so the reason for these hearings are to hear your evaluations, which is what the mineral potential is and the oil and gas potential is, so that we can weigh that.

I might say that Senator Reid, I don't think that I am going to vote for a bill that allows snowmobiling in a wilderness area. I think they are totally incompatible.

Senator Hecht?

Senator **Hecht**. Thank you Mr. Chairman. I know your constraints on time, but Mr. Bryant Williams made a statement and I would like to ask him a little bit more about.

I will quote exactly. "One of the wells, Grant Canyon, number three is the highest volume daily on shore oil producer in the nation of 4,000 barrels per day." You mean we in Nevada have the largest flowing oil well in America?

Mr. **Williams**. That is correct, Senator. Presently, that is the highest rate oil in the continental United States, and certainly it's a flag to those of us in the industry who are interested in the frontiers of Nevada.

But this could be a very prolific area.

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[1] The statement appears in the appendix.

Senator Bumpers. Where is that well?

Mr. Williams. It's in the Grant Canyon, the Grant Canyon field. This is adjacent to the three areas, Senator, that I mentioned in my testimony.

Senator Murkowski. You are including Alaska in that?

Mr. Williams. In the lower 48, excuse me.

Senator Murkowski. You said something about the United States and I just wondered. [Laughter.]

Mr. Williams. I stand corrected, the lower 48.

Senator Hecht. Let me follow through on that. You represent one of the largest corporations in the world, Exxon, which is one of the largest oil producing corporations in the world. In your recollection, is it possible that you could have this type of an oil well and not have tremendous oil all around it?

Mr. Williams. Senator, this is a very prolific well and certainly a flag to all of industry. The geology of Nevada is extremely complex and we in the industry have spent over $150 million in the last several years trying to unravel that geology.

Senator Hecht. You mean you have spent $150 million in Nevada?

Mr. Williams. That is correct, industry, plus or minus number.

Senator Hecht. That's a good round figure that caught my attention.

Mr. Williams. The industry is very interested in the state of Nevada, particularly in the region that we have been discussing. It has extremely high interest. We feel it does have significant potential, it is a frontier area. It is not simple, but it is a very high interest area for all of industry, and we feel that we need access to that area along with offshore California and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge if we are going to make any dent in the imports that this nation has to have to sustain its needs.

Senator Hecht. I am happy that I asked you that question. We are fully aware in Nevada of our mineral content, but very, very few people in the state of Nevada are aware of the oil potential. So I thank you for making the trip up here. I thank you for putting $150 million into our state.

Senator Bumpers. Senator Murkowski.

Senator Murkowski. This is a little off the subject but I would note to my colleague, Senator Hecht, if by some misguided geography I ended up in Atlantic City and spent a night and it is my observation that there is a tremendous drift of economic acti[illegible]sociated with gaming that is moving to Atlantic City. I do not know whether that has any effect on your state, but I think most people visualize Nevada as generating revenues off gaming and really not much interest in mining or oil and gas exploration.

Is there any reason to think that you are going to have to look to resource development? You are traditionally a mining state and then you moved into gaming and is it of any significance or are you better off with what you've got?

Senator Hecht. It's of great significance. In the last session of the Nevada legislature they taxed mining more than probably any time in the past because they realize that gambling alone can not sustain the economy of our state and meet all of our economic challenges.

Obviously if we have oil potential, that would also be another area in which we would have taxation, at a very low figure obviously to encourage them to come in. But we create a lot of jobs and we are happy to get it started, and I do not know what the avenues of taxation are on oil, but I assume there are those possibilities.

Senator MURKOWSKI. I would invite Senator Reid if he would care to comment on it?

Senator REID. Senator Murkowski, the state of Nevada has been hurt not at all by the Atlantic City operation, maybe less than 1 percent. It has been an insignificant impact. We are of course trying to diversify our economy so that it does not go unsaid here Mr. Chairman, you understand Mr. Williams, the oil that you have is far removed from my area that I suggested as wilderness, you understand that, don't you?

Mr. WILLIAMS. First of all it's not our oil, I wish it was.

Senator REID. Whose oil is it?

Mr. WILLIAMS. It currently belongs to C & G I believe.

Senator REID. You understand that the relatively small area that I have suggested was also recommended by the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service of course?

Mr. WILLIAMS. I realize that.

Senator REID. And in their estimation and in the minds of most anyone else the oil exploration isn't going to be at 11,000 feet, where we have suggested this for wilderness.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I guess we would argue with that. We are saying there is about 67,000 acres in your bill that we feel are in a corridor, 11 per cent of your total bill.

Senator REID. Where are those areas?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Up in the Quinn Canyon, and Currant Mountain, which is not in your bill.

Senator REID. It is not in my bill, I want you to understand that.

Mr. WILLIAMS. The Grant Range and the Quinn Canyon that are in your bill, some 11 percent of your total bill we believe should be maintained for industry to explore because it is in a corridor that could be very potential.

We do not have enough information at the present time to say yes, this acre is good, this acre is not good. But all we are saying is give industry access to that acreage.

Senator REID. Mr. Williams, I having been born and raised in Nevada and worked in the mines, my father was a hard rock miner, I understand the importance of mining to the state of Nevada and to this country. But I also understand that these remote areas that I have in my bill, the Grant and the very small area in Quinn, some 20,000 acres leaves virtually millions and millions of acres to explore. And I think we have to as Senator Bumpers indicated recognize that there are certain areas that are so unique and this is a speck of the state of Nevada, 67,000 acres out of the 72 million acres is a small speck of land, and even in the areas where you say that there are some geologic, that geologically there could be oil, these are down in a canyon area and in the foothill areas.

I do not think, do you know of any in the continental United States excluding, do you know any oil wells that are 11,000 feet?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, I do.

Senator **Reid**. Would you compare these to the Grant and Queen areas?

Mr. **Williams**. I have to be very careful about concepts that our company or industry employs. Because our business is very competitive, and these acres are unleased.

Senator **Reid**. The point of the matter is, and I think it's quite clear, the area where this oil well is that's producing a lot of oil is far removed from the Grant Range. It's far removed from the area that's been designated wilderness.

And even the very conservative Agriculture Department has recommended that Grant Range be part of the wilderness area. And as you're also aware, I think any of your exploration would not be at 11,000 feet.

I have been there. There are great valleys down there. I have seen the oil wells. They are far removed. We are talking about miles, many, many miles.

Mr. **Williams**. Senator, I stand on my testimony. And we would prefer that you exclude those two areas because of their economic potential.

Senator **Reid**. Oh, well, I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator **Bumpers**. Ms. Ball, gentlemen, thank you very much for coming to be with us this morning.

Our second panel this morning is Dr. Roy Jones, Elko County Conservation Association of Elko; Marjorie Sill, Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club; Pete Sferrazza, Mayor of Reno; Clara Babb, Hawthorne, Nevada; Elizabeth Warren, Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for being with us this morning.

Dr. Jones, if you will be kind enough to lead off. And let me reiterate that we must comply with the three-minute rule or we're going to be here a very long time.

Dr. Jones.

STATEMENT OF DR. ROY JONES, ELKO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Dr. **Jones**. Yes, Senator Bumpers. I have a copy of my written statement.

Senator **Bumpers**. It will be admitted for the record.

Dr. **Jones**. As well as four other letters from fellow physicians in Elko who are generally going to support what I'm about to say.

I am a physician and Republican from Elko, Nevada, and I'm speaking on behalf of the Elko County Conservation Association.

We are a small organization that was formed approximately two years ago, primarily for two reasons: one, to serve as a resource for environmental information in the Elko area; and also, to counter the anti-wilderness rhetoric that is quite voluminous in our county.

I think it is important for the Senators here who do not live in the State of Nevada to realize that there are pro-wilderness people in Nevada, and in Elko County, which is generally considered to be an anti-wilderness county. In our state, there are generally two groups. I belong to the group that believes that wilderness is a good idea. We simply wish to preserve the wilderness character of a very small portion of our state, not only for ourselves, but also for future generations.

The anti-wilderness group views the situation as one in which economic opportunities will be impaired by wilderness designation.

I would like to say, very emphatically, that the Elko County Conservation Association does not want to curtail the ranching industry or the mining industry, and we believe the bills we support will not do so.

One of the major arguments that is given in Elko County is that the people of Nevada do not support wilderness. The Elko Independent of July 22, 1987 edition, it was stated by a spokesman of Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy that the overwhelming local sentiment is opposed to additional wilderness designations in our county.

That may sound familiar, because when Senate bill S. 722 was introduced in the 99th Congress, it was stated that most Nevadans are suspicious and even hostile toward proposals aimed at restricting their access to Nevada's public lands.

What is the truth? I have with me today a copy of a report which was published by the Nevada division of state parks, and it concerns recreation in Nevada with a date of 1986. The report covers several areas.

But one of the questions they asked these individuals was what their feels were on wilderness. And I would like to point out that over 2,000 Nevadans were called. The accuracy of this was within 4 percent, and it is a scientifically valid study.

I am very happy to report that 74 percent of all Nevadans who responded to these questions support the idea of wilderness designation for our State. But of course the local sentiment projected by some of the anti-wilderness groups is that people in Elko County do not want it.

I would like to point out that 62 percent of Elko Countians support wilderness as indicated in this study. I have yet to hear anybody to refute this study.

There are four bills presently in Congress. We support Representative Buddy Darden's bill, H.R. 2044, which includes 1.4 million acres.

But I would like to say in summary that we do not wish to impute Senator Reid's bill. I would like to point out that he was the first representative from Nevada that introduced a meaningful bill.

He has provided the strength and courage and leadership on this issue. And I would like to say that he was the only one willing to compromise during the 99th Congress.

We wish to thank him for support of this bill, and I would like him to know that 74 percent of Nevadans support him on this issue.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Jones follows:]

Statement of Roy G. Jones, M.D. concerning S.1138 before the Senate Subcommittee, Public Lands, National Parks and Forests, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., August 4, 1987.

Mr. Chairman:

My name is Roy Jones, and I am a physician and surgeon residing in Elko, Nevada and a representative of the Elko County Conservation Association. It is my privilege to offer testimony on behalf of our association relating to S.1138 and other pertinent wilderness legislation concerning the state of Nevada. Our group was organized approximately two years ago, primarily to serve as a resource for environmental information in Elko County and to counter the considerable misinformation that has been circulated in our area by anti-wilderness groups which have had virtually free access to the local newspaper's editorial pages. We felt it important that outside observers be aware that in spite of the rather large volume of local anti-wilderness rhetoric, there is substantial grass roots support for wilderness designation.

It is not necessary to restate all the various arguments both for and against wilderness designation, but it is pertinent to note that the line has been drawn in Nevada by separating one group, which feels that the beauty of Nevada is worth preserving for future generations of Nevadans, and the opposing group, which feels that although the above goal is worthy it tends to interfere with economic opportunities that are available on public lands. The Elko County Conservation Association has no desire to eliminate either the mining or ranching industry in the state of Nevada; on the contrary, we feel significant portions of our state's roadless areas can be set aside without having any adverse impact on ranching and insignificant impact on the mining industry. The anti-wilderness groups have apparently concluded that wilderness in Nevada would inhibit the economic benefits they can derive from public lands and have consistently supported those legislative bills calling for only 137,000 acres of National Forest Wilderness designation. This is tantamount to ignoring the Wilderness Act of 1964 and an apparent attempt to apply this act in Nevada to the least extent possible. This is particularly disturbing since it has become readily apparent that the majority of Nevadans (including Elko County residents) support the concept of wilderness preservation. Furthermore, it is clear that the majority of all Americans are in support of the wilderness concept, and it is our belief that our Republican legislators have inappropriately concluded that public land policy for our state should be decided solely in Nevada by Nevadans even though these lands belong to all Americans equally.

Thus far this legislative session, four bills (HR.708, HR.2044, HR.2142, and S.1138) have been introduced which would designate various amounts of national forest wilderness in Nevada. Republican Vucanovich of Nevada has once again demonstrated an unwillingness to provide adequate wilderness preservation by asking for only 132,000 acres of wilderness for our state. We are particularly dismayed that she has excluded such worthy mountain ranges as the Ruby Mountains of Elko County and, furthermore, has apparently decided that her previous bill of a meager 137,000 acres was excessive and has deleted 5,000 acres from that proposal. We have communicated with Rep. Vucanovich, but it seems that groups such as the Nevadans for Practical Wilderness Policy have continued to be able to persuade her with such rhetoric as was recently published in the Elko Independent newspaper. In the July 22, 1987 issue, a representative of that organization is quoted as saying, "..... the overwhelming local sentiment is opposed to additional wilderness designations in our county." This may sound familiar for when S.722 was introduced during the 99th Congress (a bill indentical to Rep. Vucanovich's bill) by our Republican Senator it was claimed "..... that most Nevadans are very suspicious and even hostile toward proposals aimed at restricting their access to Nevada's public lands." The frequent claims that most Nevadans do not want wilderness is simply inaccurate.

In April 1986, the Nevada Division of State Parks published a booklet entitled "Recreation in Nevada, 1986", which contained the results of a poll conducted by the Market System Research, Inc. Much to the chagrin of the anti-wilderness groups, this scientifically valid study produced results quite contrary to the claims they have been making about Nevadans' feelings toward wilderness importance. (We are certain that you will not hear of this study from them.) According to this study, 74% of all Nevadans agree that setting aside designated wilderness is important. In Elko County, where strong opposition is claimed, 62% of the polled residents recognize the importance of wilderness. If our elected representatives in Washington are fulfilling the desires of their constituency's majority, bills of 137,000 acreas would not be introduced.

Of the remaining three bills, the Elko County Conservation Association is most in support of HR.2044, which would set aside 1.4 million acres. We are in favor of this proposal simply because these areas truly characterize the types of lands the Wilderness Act seeks to protect, and in future years when this country is even more developed, these pristine areas will take on even greater significance in contrast to the development surrounding them. We, by no means, wish to malign S.1138, the bill Senator Reid has introduced; we simply prefer more acreage. The Elko County Conservation Association is extremely grateful and indebted to Senator Reid for the tremendous amount of effort he has made toward providing adequate wilderness for Nevada. As a Representative for our First Congressional District during the 99th Congress, he, alone, provided strong support for Nevada's unknown, but scenic National Forest Lands, and he, alone, demonstrated the willingness to compromise and get a bill passed during that session. A bill was not passed, but the strength and courage he demonstrated directly led to his senatorial election in a campaign where the views of the two candidates on environmental matters were in conflict. We urge Senator Reid to continue to provide the leadership on this matter; 74% of Nevadans support him on this issue.

On behalf of the Elko County Conservation Association, I would like to thank the distinguished members of this committee for providing this opportunity to testify. I am including with this testimony four additional letters of support for our position from Elko County physicians, three of which are not members of our group.

Thank you.

Roy G Jones MD

Roy G. Jones, M.D.
Elko County Conservation Assocition
P.O. Box 2561
Elko, Nevada 89801

July 29, 1987

Senate Subcommittee,
Public Lands National Parks and Forests
U.S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20515

Mister Chairman;

My name is Christopher Ward and I am surgeon residing in Elko, Nevada. For the past year and a half I have been following with great interest, the various wilderness bills that have been introduced for the State of Nevada and was disappointed that during the Ninety-ninth Congress, a comprehensive bill was not passed that would have provided for a significant amount of wilderness acreage for our state. Most nonNevadans are not aware that the state's National Forest lands are extremely scenic and in everyway, qualify for wilderness designation as defined by the wilderness act of 1964. The House and Senate bills which were introduced in the Ninety-ninth Congress that provided for only one hundred and thirty-seven thousand acres of wilderness designation were woefully inadequate and I personally feel did not adequately protect a sufficient amount of roadless areas.

Most of the opposition to wilderness designation in Nevada comes from those groups who derive economic gain from our public lands. The three wilderness proposals that have been introduced in the One Hundredth Congress by Senator Reid and Representatives Bilbray and Darden in my mind are not excessive; even the bill that provides for 1.4 million acres. This would set aside less than two percent of all of Nevada's lands and would have no impact on grazing which can continue in wilderness areas, and insignificant impact on mining. As was stated at the public hearings in Elko in February of 1986 by experts from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, wilderness designation would significantly improve wildlife management in Nevada which would have a positive impact on the hunting and recreation industry. To a very significant degree, these latter two industries over the long term, provide for greater stability in the local economic community, while at the same time producing no significant impact on our state's scenic lands.

I would urge this committee to pass a strong wilderness bill for the state of Nevada utilizing Senator Harry Reid's bill, S 1138 as a bottom line bill, but I personally would prefer acreages more along the line of Representative Darden's bill which would set aside 1.4 million acres.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Christopher H. Ward

Christopher H. Ward, M.D.
762 14th Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

July 29, 1987

Senator Harry Reid
U. S. Senate
1171 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Honorable Senator Reid;

I am writing in support of your Senate Bill S 1138, designating wilderness in Nevada. I think that this bill represents the absolute minimum that should be settled for and designated wilderness land in Nevada. In particular, wilderness areas in the eastern region such as the Ruby Mountains area which are among the most scenic, remote and unique areas, should not in any way be compromised.

I would urge you, if other Nevada legislators are particularly obstructionistic in designating wilderness, to simply withhold this measure for another fifteen months when there will be two democratic senators from Nevada and enlarge the wilderness designation at that time.

Contrary to some of the more vociferous rural news reporters, the majority of the people in the rural area support the wilderness designation. I believe that this bill certainly represents a very small and minimal part of the available acreage in Nevada, but would, nonetheless, be a significant contribution to future generations.

Sincerely,

David M. Hogle, M.D.
762 14th Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

DMH/jb

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July 31, 1987

The Honorable Harry Reid
U.S. Senate
1171 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Reid:

It is my understanding that hearings will soon be undertaken to determine the allocation of wilderness land in the state of Nevada. As a voting resident of the state of Nevada, I would like to express my support for Senate Bill S.1138. I feel it is our obligation to preserve as many wilderness acres as possible for future generations of Americans. If we do not persevere in this effort, our children may never have the opportunity to view our state in its natural splendor.

Sincerely,

Roger A Jones MD

Roger A. Jones, M.D.

RAJ:lm

Member Organizations

Medical Group Management Association
American Occupational Medical Association
Nevada Mining Association
Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.

332 Spring Creek Pkwy
Elko, Nevada 89801
July 28, 1987

Attn: U.S. Senate Hearing S.B. #1138

I wish my letter to be included in testimony on #S.B. 1138.

While I strongly support Senator Reid's bill #1138, I feel it leaves out many areas within Nevada's National Forest Lands that are also deserving of wilderness status. I would like the Senate & House to pass a bill that included those areas proposed by Friends of Nevada Wilderness — actually Congressman Darden's HR#2044 introduced this year is the best legislative proposal that gives full protection to Forest service lands deserving wilderness status.

While I strongly commend Senator Reid's enthusiasm & foresight in protecting some wilderness, I feel SB#1138 is too big a compromise — it deletes & forgets too many precious places that should be saved in their natural state for future generations of Americans.

Sincerely,
Grant T. Kien
Grant T. Kien, M.D.

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you very much, Dr. Jones.
Ms. Sill?

STATEMENT OF MARJORIE SILL, CONSERVATION CHAIR, TOIYABA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Ms. **Sill**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Marjorie Sill. I have been a resident of Reno, Nevada for 28 years.

I am here today representing the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, with over 2,200 members in Nevada and eastern California.

Wilderness has been the top priority for our members since the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, which established the 64,000 acre Jarbidge Wilderness in northeastern Elko County.

Our members who do not or cannot use the wilderness themselves want the wild areas protected for the generations to come. They have studied and explored these wild lands of Nevada extensively; have participated in the various stages of Forest Service planning.

However, at this time, in spite of the growing recognition of the unique values of the state's wild lands, and the efforts by citizens and a few of our Congressional representatives, the Jarbidge remains our only designated wilderness in Nevada.

Consequently, we are excited and pleased that Senator Reid has introduced S. 1138, the first real Nevada wilderness bill to be introduced in the Senate.

We are particularly happy that 40,000 acres in the wild and rugged Grant Range has been added to the original legislation which passed the House last year.

We are disappointed in the 33,000 acre deletion of the north and south Twin River drainages, and the surrounding country from the Arc Dome Wilderness. These drainages have been recommended by the Forest Service as possessing high wilderness values, and we feel that to omit this area from the bill would be a mistake.

The 12 areas presently included in S. 1138 are all important in terms of their unique wilderness values, and must be included in any meaningful wilderness legislation.

However, we would also like to see some of the lesser known areas added to the Nevada wilderness bill. There are at least 21 Forest Service areas that qualify in every way for wilderness status.

Among these are Current Mountain south of Eureka, considered by many to be some of the wildest and most scenic country in the State; the Schell Peaks in White Pine County, a recreation paradise; the Santa Rosas, headwaters of the Little Humboldt and Twin Rivers, and a favorite with trout fishermen.

The fight to achieve any recognition of wilderness values in Nevada has been a difficult one. Many of the areas are so remote they have been little used.

But in the past 10 years, with the growth that has taken place in our State, the use of Nevada's wild areas has increased dramatically. With this growing use, the attitude of the people of Nevada has shifted to support for wilderness; recognition of the importance of wilderness to the image of the State.

We believe Nevada is not a wasteland. The enthusiasm with which the new Great Basin National Park has been treated in rural areas signals this change in attitude. With the passage of a good wilderness bill, recognition will come quickly that when a wilderness benefits us all, and will be our legacy for the future.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Sill follows:]

STATEMENT OF MARJORIE SILL
CONSERVATION CHAIR, TOIYABE CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB
BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS
REGARDING NEVADA WILDERNESS BILL (S.1138)
AUGUST 4, 1987

My name is Marjorie Sill, and I have been a resident of Reno, Nevada, for 28 years. I am here today representing the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, with over 2200 members in Nevada and Eastern California. Wilderness has been the top priority for our members since the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964 which established the 64,000 acre Jarbidge wilderness in northeastern Elko County. The members who do not or cannot use the wilderness themselves want the wild areas protected for their children and grandchildren and for the generations to come. We have studied and explored these wild lands of Nevada extensively and have participated in the various stages of Forest Service planning, including RARE I and RARE II, as well as the current planning process. However, at this time in spite of the growing recognition of the unique values of the state's wildlands and the efforts by citizens and a few of our congressional representatives to establish wilderness, the Jarbidge remains our only designated wilderness in Nevada.

Consequently, we are excited and pleased that Senator Reid has introduced S. 1138, the first real Nevada Wilderness Bill to be introduced in the Senate. We are particularly happy that 40,000 acres in the wild and rugged Grant Range, including Troy Peak, has been added to the original legislation which passed the House last year. This is indeed an important step forward.

However, we are disappointed in the 33,000 acre deletion of the North and South Twin River drainages and the surrounding country from the Arc Dome wilderness. These drainages have been recommended by the Forest Service as possessing high wilderness values and are used extensively by fishermen, hikers, and photographers. To omit this spectacular area east of the Arc Dome crest from wilderness would be a tragic mistake. We urge strongly that this area be reinstated in the bill.

The twelve areas presently included in S. 1138 are all extremely important in terms of their unique wilderness values. Alta Toquima and Table Mountain represent, in addition to Arc Dome, the finest qualities of the large Central Nevada ranges with their abundant wildlife, flowers, aspen, and recreational opportunities. Quinn Canyon is an almost unknown jewel with a wealth of flora and fauna special in southcentral Nevada. The walk through Hooper canyon is a mini wilderness experience, particularly delightful in the spring when the wildflowers are blooming and the birds nesting. The alpine Ruby Mountains, the East Humboldt, the Jarbidge additions, Mt. Moriah, Mt. Charleston, Boundary Peak (highest point in Nevada), and Mt. Rose (the small personal wilderness of those of us who live in the Reno-Carson area) are certainly important areas which must be included in any meaningful wilderness legislation.

However, we would also like to see some of the lesser-known areas added to the Nevada wilderness bill. There are at least 21 Forest Service areas that qualify in every way for wilderness status. Among these are Currant Mountain, south of Eureka, considered by many to be some of the wildest and most scenic country in the state, country that is essentially untouched by man because of its rugged nature but is home to the bighorn and various raptors. The Schell Peaks in White Pine County is a recreationist's paradise with good hunting, fishing, and the opportunity to find solitude in just a few minutes from the nearest roadhead. In Northwest Nevada, far removed from most of the big mountain ranges, are the Santa Rosas, headwaters of the Little Humboldt and Quinn Rivers. This important watershed is a favorite with trout fishermen--a subtle country of rock outcroppings, lush meadows, ephemeral lakes. It needs wilderness protection to insure its continuing survival from ORV damage, particularly in the wet meadows. Perhaps the least known of any proposed wilderness in Nevada is the vast Excelsior area near Hawthorne. Lying in the rain shadow of the Sierra, it has no summer surface water and, consequently, little human disturbance, but it is a winter haven for deer and birds and is an almost untapped treasure of cultural resources.

The fight to achieve any recognition of wilderness values in Nevada has been a difficult one. Many of the areas are so remote that they have been little used except by some ranchers, miners, and hunters. But in the past ten years, with the growth that has taken place in the state and the overcrowding of some of the wilderness in the High Sierra, the use of Nevada wild areas has increased dramatically. With this growing use, the attitude of the people of Nevada has shifted to support for wilderness and recognition of the importance of wilderness to the image of the state. The affirmation of the beauty of Nevada's unique wild country goes hand in hand with the message of the poster, "Nevada is Not a Wasteland." The enthusiasm with which the new Great Basin National Park has been greeted in rural areas signals this change in attitude. With the passage of a good Nevada wilderness bill, recognition will come quickly that wilderness benefits us all and will be our legacy for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and to support Nevada wilderness legislation.

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you very much.

Mr. Sferrazza.

STATEMENT OF PETER J. SFERRAZZA, MAYOR, RENO, NV

Mr. **Sferrazza**. Mr. Chairman, Members of the committee, I am Pete Sferrazza, Mayor of the City of Reno, Nevada.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. I wish to commend Senator Reid for his introduction of Senate bill 1138.

With the passage of this or stronger legislation, an important step toward the preservation and well deserved acknowledgement of the cherished wild beauty which is Nevada will have been taken.

Mt. Rose, one of the areas proposed for wilderness designation, is understandably important to me. Situated a few short miles from Reno, this region of tall pines, cool streams, and year-round patches of snow, is inextricably woven into the fabric of our community.

Mt. Rose is an area of many uses: ski resorts and taverns dot the slopes; large scale gaming is planned. Families can escape the city in both winter and summer for either developed or primitive recreation.

The rapid growth of Reno has infringed upon the edges of Mt. Rose. Still there is much which remains in a natural state, and can be preserved if we wish.

Presently, Representative Vucanovich, in an attempt to justify her omission of Mt. Rose from her current legislation, H.R. 708, was quoted as saying; "It will be affected by the noise of bulldozers," and that was her quote.

The threat of this very sound stimulated the Reno City Council to speak out with one voice in 1985 with quite a different tone.

On September 23, 1985, the Reno City Council unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the consideration of Mt. Rose for wilderness.

On September 13, 1986, during the Senate field hearing held in Reno, I stood before a room filled to capacity with enthusiastic wilderness supporters, and presented this resolution.

Clearly, the citizens and leaders of Reno strongly support a Mt. Rose wilderness, and I urge you to do likewise.

The inclusion of Mt. Rose in Senate bill 1138 was an important step forward, but the boundaries must now be considered.

Upon careful reflection, I urge this committee to include those additional lands contained in H.R. 2142, which is Representative Bilbray's proposal for Mt. Rose.

Most of this land, approximately 3,000 acres, lies at the North End of the world famous Lake Tahoe. Besides adding to the proposals more spectacular high country with open vistas of the lake, this will also help the effort to protect Lake Tahoe.

Having studied the other wilderness proposals that are in competition with those I have mentioned, I wish to make some personal comments.

The preservation of Nevada's scenic grandeur, her unmatched mountains and precious wilderness heritage, should be the unswerving course of all Nevada's leaders.

The effort to protect Nevada's wilderness should be a strong bipartisan effort unmarred by party posturing and bickering. These lands are deserving of far better.

Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Sferrazza follows:]

STATEMENT OF PETER J. SFERRAZZA, MAYOR, RENO, NEVADA, BEFORE THE SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS, AND FOREST, ON S.1138, THE NEVADA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1987, AUGUST 4, 1987.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Peter J. Sferrazza, Mayor of Reno, Nevada, and I wish to thank you for the opportunity to testify here today.

I wish to commend Senator Reid for his introduction of S.1138, the first true Nevada Wilderness Act presented to the Senate. With the passage of this, or stronger legislation, an important step toward the preservation and well-deserved acknowledgement of the cherished wild beauty which is Nevada, will have been taken.

Mt. Rose, one of the areas proposed for wilderness designation, is understandably important to me. Situated a few short miles from Reno, this region of tall pines, cool streams and year-round patches of snow, is inextricably woven into the fabric of our community. Mt. Rose is an area of many uses: ski resorts and taverns dot the slopes; large scale gaming is planned; families can escape the city in both winter and summer for either developed or primitive recreation.

The rapid growth of Reno has infringed upon the edges of Mt. Rose. Still there is much which remains in a natural state and can be preserved if we so wish.

Recently Representative Vucanovich, in an attempt to justify her omission of Mt. Rose from her current legislation, HR708, was quoted as saying, "It will be affected by the noise of bulldozers."

The threat of this very sound stimulated the Reno City

Council to speak out with one voice in 1985 in quite a different tone. On September 23, 1985, the Reno City Council unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the consideration of Mt. rose for wilderness. On September 13, 1986, during the Senate Field Hearing held in Reno, I stood before a room filled to capacity with enthusiastic wilderness supporters, and presented this resolution. Again, I take great pride in entering this resolution into the hearing record.

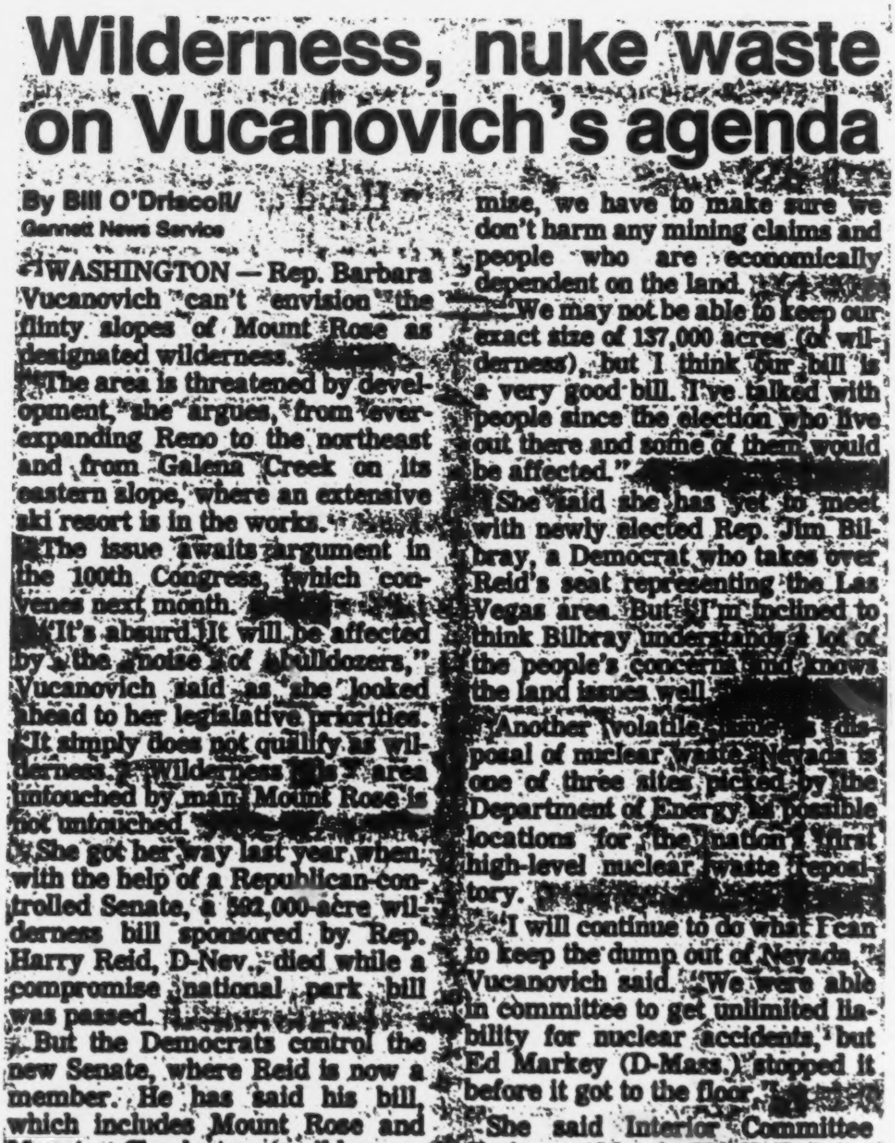
Clearly the citizens and leaders of Reno strongly support a Mt. Rose wilderness, and I urge you to do likewise.

The inclusion of Mt. Rose in S.1138 was the important step forward, but the boundaries must now be considered. Upon careful reflection, I urge this Committee to include those additional lands contained in HR 2142, Representative Bilbray's proposeal for Mt. Rose. Most of this land, approximately 3,000 acres, lies at the north end of world famous Lake Tahoe. Besides adding to the proposal more spectacular high country with open vistas of the lake, this will also help the effort to protect Tahoe.

Having studied the other wilderness proposals that are in competition with those I have mentioned, I wish to make some personal comments. The preservation of Nevada's scenic grandeur, her unmatched mountains and precious wilderness heritage, should be the unswerving course of all Nevada's leaders. The effort to protect Nevada's wilderness should be a strong bi-partisan effort, unmarred by party posturing and bickering. These lands are deserving of far better.

Senator Reid's proposal should be the absolute minimum -- anything less simply won't do. Representative Darden has proposed many additional areas and acreage in HR 2044. While all these lands are deserving, the need for meaningful compromise compels other action. The position taken by Representative Bilbray in HR 2142, with his inclusion of the entire Arc Dome wilderness, more of the unparalleled Ruby Mounts, along with Current Mountain and the Santa Rosas, forms the essence of a truly satisfying Nevada Wilderness Act.

Again, thank you for your consideration of my testimony.



Wilderness, nuke waste on Vucanovich's agenda

By Bill O'Driscoll/
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — Rep. Barbara Vucanovich can't envision the flinty slopes of Mount Rose as designated wilderness.

The area is threatened by development, she argues, from ever-expanding Reno to the northeast and from Galena Creek on its eastern slope, where an extensive ski resort is in the works.

The issue awaits argument in the 100th Congress, which convenes next month.

"It's absurd. It will be affected by the noise of bulldozers," Vucanovich said as she looked ahead to her legislative priorities. "It simply does not qualify as wilderness. Wilderness is an area untouched by man. Mount Rose is not untouched."

She got her way last year when, with the help of a Republican-controlled Senate, a 592,000-acre wilderness bill sponsored by Rep. Harry Reid, D-Nev., died while a compromise national park bill was passed.

But the Democrats control the new Senate, where Reid is now a member. He has said his bill, which includes Mount Rose and Mount Charleston wilderness areas, is favored by a majority of Nevadans and will be his first order of business.

Vucanovich, as a member of the House Interior Committee, isn't about to quit.

"Look what we ended up doing with the (Great Basin) national park," she said of the compromise 76,800-acre park in eastern Nevada. "If we have to compromise, we have to make sure we don't harm any mining claims and people who are economically dependent on the land.

"We may not be able to keep our exact size of 137,000 acres (of wilderness), but I think our bill is a very good bill. I've talked with people since the election who live out there and some of them would be affected."

She said she has yet to meet with newly elected Rep. Jim Bilbray, a Democrat who takes over Reid's seat representing the Las Vegas area. But "I'm inclined to think Bilbray understands a lot of the people's concerns and knows the land issues well."

Another volatile issue is disposal of nuclear waste. Nevada is one of three sites picked by the Department of Energy as possible locations for the nation's first high-level nuclear waste repository.

"I will continue to do what I can to keep the dump out of Nevada," Vucanovich said. "We were able in committee to get unlimited liability for nuclear accidents, but Ed Markey (D-Mass.) stopped it before it got to the floor."

She said Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall, D-Ariz., has become disenchanted with the department's selection process. The department came under fire last spring when it announced it would halt its search for a back-up site east of the Mississippi River, where most waste is generated.

Vucanovich said she views Udall's sentiments as favorable to

See VUCANOVICH, page 2C

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Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you, Mayor. I can see why the folks out there elected you.

Senator **Hecht**. He has a great wife. [Laughter.]

Senator **Bumpers**. Ms. Babb.

STATEMENT OF CLARA BABB, HAWTHORNE, NV

Ms. **Babb**. My name is Clara Babb. I have been a resident of Hawthorne, Nevada, since 1944.

I wish to thank Senator Reid for introducing S. 1138, the Nevada wilderness bill.

I can really appreciate wilderness, because I come from the Midwest where there is no open land except on the streets and farm roads.

Most of the people I know feel the same way about the wide open spaces. Unfortunately, many of them think things will remain the way they have always been in Nevada. This is not so.

Many of the places where my family and I used to ride and hike are now fenced and posted. We need wilderness before it is too late.

One of the most frequent arguments against wilderness is that elderly or handicapped people will not be able to make use of it. As a senior citizen with some health problems, I still hike and do like backpacking.

There is no reason to deny opportunities, just because I can no longer do as much as I used to. You do not have to be in great physical shape to enjoy wilderness.

I have seen many handicapped people in wilderness areas. Most of the outstanding scenic areas in the United States are already accessible by road. This is fine for people who need or want more comforts, but it is not a wilderness experience.

We need some places away from the crowd, places to watch a sunrise over a mountain lake, away from television, telephone and radio.

Places to watch the autumn glow on a mountain peak without competition from neon light.

If our remaining wilderness is paved over, it will be no different from the places already developed.

An area I would especially like to see included in wilderness is the canyon area leading up to the crest of Arc Dome, particularly the north and south Twin River draining areas.

These are steep canyons with large perennial streams and several deep gorges. Higher up, there are many beautiful meadows. Fishing is good for rainbow and German brown trout.

The vegetation includes almost everything native to Central Nevada.

There are birds of all kinds, including Golden Eagles and great horned owls.

I have seen numerous deer, wild horses and coyotes; big horned sheep, cougars, bobcats, and elk are also in the area, although I have never been lucky enough to see them.

This area represents the best of central Nevada, and should be saved for all to enjoy. I urge that it be added back to the Arc Dome Wilderness in S. 1138.

Other wild areas I have ridden or hiked in during my 43 years in Nevada are Ruby Mountains, Mt. Moria, the Queen Canyon Range, Shell Peak, Mt. Charleston, and the Snow Snake Range.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Babb follows:]

STATEMENT OF CLARA BABB

BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS

REGARDING NEVADA WILDERNESS BILL (S. 1138)

AUGUST 4, 1987

My name is Clara Babb, and I have been a resident of Hawthorne, Nevada, since 1944. I am retired and the grandmother of nine.

I wish to thank Senator Reid for introducing S. 1138, the Nevada Wilderness Bill.

I can really appreciate wilderness because I come from the midwest where there is no open land and no place to walk except on the streets and farm roads. Most of the people I know feel the same way about the wide open spaces. Unfortunately, many of them think things will remain the way they have always been in Nevada. This is not so. Many of the places where my family and I used to ride and hike are now fenced and posted. We need wilderness before it is too late.

One of the most frequent arguments against wilderness is that elderly or handicapped people will not be able to make use of it. As a senior citizen with some health problems, I still hike and do light backpacking. There is no reason to deny opportunities to others, just because I can no longer do as much as I used to. You do not have to be in great physical shape to enjoy wilderness. I once watched a polio victim come up the Bright Angel Trail in the Grand Canyon on crutches. He had gone down the day before on the South Kaibab Trail which is even steeper. Two years ago I camped near a group of autistic teenagers from a special school in

California. They were having a great time being very independent and self-sufficient. Wilderness has proven to be effective in helping disturbed or problem children.

Most of the outstanding scenic areas in the United States are already accessible by road. This is fine for people who need or want more comforts, but it is not a wilderness experience. We need some places away from crowds, places to watch a sunrise over a mountain lake, away from television, telephone, and radio, places to watch the alpenglow on a mountain peak without competition from neon lights. If our remaining wilderness is paved over, it will be no different from the places already developed.

An area I would especially like to see included in wilderness is the canyon area leading up to the crest of Arc Dome, particularly the North and South Twin River drainages. These are steep canyons with large perennial streams and several deep gorges. Higher up there are many beautiful meadows. Fishing is good for rainbow and German brown trout. The vegetation includes almost everything native to Central Nevada--willow, cottonwood, aspen, elderberry, chokecherry, Indian paint brush, columbine, lupine, penstamen, wild rose, and several grasses. On the slopes away from the water are pinyon pine, juniper, mountain mahogany, and, of course, sagebrush. There are birds of all kinds including golden eagles and great horned owls. I have seen numerous deer, wild horses, and coyotes. Bighorn sheep, cougars, bobcats, and elk are also in the area, although I have never been lucky enough to see them. This area represents the best of Central Nevada and should be saved for all to enjoy. I urge that it be added back to the Arc Dome Wilderness in S. 1138.

Other wild areas I have ridden or hiked in during my 43 years in Nevada are the Ruby Mountains, Mt. Moriah, the Quinn Canyon range, the Schell Peaks, Mt. Charleston, and the South Snake Range. I hope to be able to visit many of the other twenty-one areas recommended by Friends of Nevada Wilderness in the next few years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation.

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you very much, Ms. Babb.

Ms. Warren.

STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH WARREN, CULTURAL FOCUS

Ms. **Warren**. Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, I am Elizabeth Warren of Las Vegas. I am substituting for Louis Sagle today, who is chair of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Mrs. Sagle is indeed physically handicapped. She has an aggravation of an old back injury, and could not ride the airplane for six hours to be here.

But she is very strongly in support of wilderness and wishes me to speak out on behalf of the coalition.

I have also prepared testimony from own perspective, which is from the tourism industry, and I have submitted that as well, and ask that it be entered into the record and hope that someone will find the time to really take a look at the aspect of tourism and Nevada.

Tourism is our major industry there. One out of every three jobs in the State is related to tourism.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is a statewide coalition which represents now—I am sorry, which has proposed 21 wild and scenic areas for wilderness designation.

And had the witness list not been so short, we would have had many more people here to speak on the subject.

However, I want you to know it is a young, grass roots movement. It is a response made in 1985 to statements that were issued by miners, ranchers, and public officials, who claimed then that Nevadans did not want wilderness.

And those of us who did came together and were appalled to think that only four small areas of Nevada would be nominated for wilderness designation.

Thousands of us came together. We are donating our own money, our materials, our time and labor, so that we can educate the public about Nevada's wilderness and its values.

Now, we would like to have your ears for just a brief moment so that you can hear some of our concerns.

Our proposal for 21 areas is a consensus. It was worked out by 26 organizations who represent about 10,000 Nevadans. And, briefly, we ask that these unique roadless mountain tops be designated for their very special qualities.

This is only about 1.4 million acres. It is still less than 2 percent of Nevada's total land mass.

If these are then designated as wilderness and a bill is passed, more than 2 million additional acres will be freed up for other multiple uses. And I stress the words, other multiple uses.

Wilderness is a multiple use. There are many uses that can be made of wilderness lands; it is just that it is not a completely open public land management practice.

The 21 areas we identify here have extraordinary values that we think place them at the top of the list of 113 eligible sites. And we believe there are no significant resource conflicts.

We want to applaud Senator Reid for introducing the very best Nevada wilderness bill ever brought to the U.S. Senate. We do have some problems with it, and we will be speaking to him personally.

But in addition, we do urge that the committee consider adding in the north and south Twin Rivers of Arc Dome, and also delete the snowmobiling area on Mt. Rose.

Congressman Bilbray's bill is more closely allied to our goal.

The Vucanovich bill is totally unacceptable. We think it is an insult to our intelligence, and certainly to the values of Nevada, to declare that only 32,000 acres of Nevada should be added to wilderness.

I also regard it as a rather baffling rejection of tourism as a major industry for Nevada.

Tourists who are seeking those values do not know they can find them in Nevada, because we do not have these designations. The single wilderness area we have, as late as 1977, 48 percent of the visitors to that wilderness area came from out of State.

As the pressures increase for population that will increase.

And finally, I would just like to support the stand that the wilderness is a resource bank. It is a conservative view to put the land into wilderness rather than to open it for development.

We hope that you will support the 74 percent of Nevadans who were surveyed for the outdoor recreation plan; and give us the wilderness that we know Nevada deserves.

Senator BUMPERS. Thank you very much, Ms. Warren.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Warren follows:]

Statement of Elizabeth Warren
Representing Cultural Focus
Before the Senate Committee on Public Lands and
Natural Resources, on S. 1138
August 4, 1987

My name is Elizabeth Warren. I am a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada and formerly of Goodsprings, a turn-of-the-century mining camp about 40 miles southwest of Las Vegas. I am Director of Cultural Focus, the tourism outreach program of the Allied Arts Council of Southern Nevada. Cultural Focus offers arts-oriented programs and tours (The Flip Side of Las Vegas) to conventioneers and vacationers. Our principal market is the out-of-state and international visitor who comes to Las Vegas for four to seven days to attend a business or professional meeting. These visitors are fascinated to learn about the Nevada beyond the gambling tables; nearly all of them know nothing about the state and think it contains only casinos and military bases. The mission of Cultural Focus is to tell them otherwise, and take people out to wild lands, scenic areas, park and recreation lands so they can experience them firsthand.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you on behalf of wilderness for Nevada. I support the position of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, setting aside 21 roadless areas totalling 1.4 million acres, less than 2% of Nevada. I commend Senator Reid for introducing the best bill ever proposed to the Senate, and wish to thank him for his careful, thoughtful analysis of wilderness needs for the Silver State. However, Senator Reid's bill, S. 1128, which is before you now, deletes too many important areas. I would be able to support it with the addition of acreage in the Arc Dome Wilderness that would protect the North and South Twin Rivers, and if the proposed seasonal snowmobile corridor is deleted from Mount Rose. Such a corridor violates the Wilderness concept, and I understand the U.S. Forest Service agrees to open other forest lands for this use in order to leave the proposed wilderness area intact. Ideally, Currant Mountain, the Santa Rosas, Excelsiors, Sweetwaters, Toiyabe Crest, Elk Mountain, Pearl Peak, Schell Peaks, and the South Snake Range would also be included in the Reid bill as well. Congressman Jim Bilbray has introduced a bill closer to the size I would like to see, and I am very pleased at this demonstration of strong support for Nevada's pristine areas. The Bilbray bill still lacks the Excelsiors, Sweetwaters, Toiyabe Crest, Elk Mountain, Pearl Peak, the Schell Peaks and the South Snake Range.

I am strongly opposed to H.R. 708, the Vucanovich bill. Not only is it the worst RARE II bill ever introduced in the Congress, and an insult to Nevada's back country primitive values, but it is a baffling rejection of tourism, Nevada's most important industry. Outdoor recreation is a seriously overlooked economic resource whose importance is undervalued when weighed against the mining industry. Nevada is the seventh largest state in the nation, but 86% of it is owned by the federal government. In this vast federally managed acreage, there is only one wilderness, one national recreation area, and one national park, which is only being dedicated later this month. There are also campsites managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Despite the paucity of federally managed recreation lands, 99% of all Nevada's recreational acreage is managed by federal agencies.

These agencies cannot now handle all the demand. Lake Mead National Recreation Area, at the southern end of the state, is the most heavily visited national recreation area in the country, and regularly there are reported shortages of campsites. On Mt. Charleston, close to Las Vegas with its 600,000 residents, campers are frequently turned away because campgrounds are full. The new Great Basin National Park is attracting new tourist business to east central Nevada. Tours at Lehman Caves, located in the new park, are fully booked and there are frequent turnaways this summer, the park's first season. We must answer the demand for outdoor recreation management if we are to provide the quality experience which ensures the repeat visit of the tourist.

Nevada's economy is heavily dependent on tourism, but so far the indoor kind is best known and developed. The State of Nevada is now spending a great deal of effort to educate the visitor to the surprises Nevada holds for them out of doors: mountains, lakes, rare and unique animals, plants and geologic formations, uncrowded scenic vistas. These efforts result from analysis of the needs of residents and out of state visitors for different recreational resources which were described in the 1977, 1982 and 1987 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans mandated by the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The 1980 Report of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Nevada, in which 25 leading and countless ordinary citizens participated, stressed conservation of natural resources and the stimulation of non-gaming recreation as components of a plan to provide for a more diverse economic base for Nevada.

In response to these citizen recommendations, Nevada has significantly boosted the Department of Tourism budget, from $43,000 per annum to several million dollars, to promote the "other Nevada." The small towns in remote rural areas are beginning to experience positive results from these efforts and it is expected the upward trend will continue. It is vitally important that these new tourism efforts be supported in considering management of federal lands which are attractive to visitors. Nevada's untouched natural areas offer an oasis of beauty and serenity on this crowded, noisy, polluted planet. In Nevada, visitors can still experience the unspoiled American West.

The mystique of the West has long intrigued Americans from crowded, urban states, and foreign visitors whose forests, lakes and mountains have long ago been tamed. In Europe and Japan there are full-scale recreations of Old West towns and Indian camps, where people immerse themselves for a little while in a simpler era, when the West was first settled. But you can't beat the real thing, and we still have it in Nevada. It's the authentic Old West that Nevada offers, and wilderness is an important part of this picture.

As Nevada and surrounding western states grow in population, it is more important than ever that we plan to meet the growth in demand for primitive outdoor recreational experience. Nevada's lone wilderness, Jarbidge, recorded 48 percent of its visitors from out of state in 1977. By the year 2000, the size of the visitation is expected to more than double, and the percentage of out of state visitors will grow along with it. The wild lands cannot absorb this increase without suffering severe damage.

Two major sources of opposition to wilderness designation come from mining and ranching interests. Mining was once Nevada's most important economic base. Today that base has shifted to tourism. One of every three jobs in Nevada is tourism related. Mining practices of the past actually provided some of the picturesque remains that are so popular with photographers, artists, tourists of all kinds. The head frames, mine dumps and tailings, old mill sites and nearby mining camps provide fascinating places to visit. But modern mining practices are antithetical to tourism, now or future. Modern strip mining techniques not only produce ugly scars and mountains of excavated earth, in many instances the works are placed on top of historic mining sites. Head frames and the weathered shacks which mark such sites are demolished or removed to make way for the heavy equipment which devours the land and all in its path. The very sights which have been so popular with tourists, photographed and painted, celebrated in books and films, are being obliterated.

Who benefits from this destruction? Some small revenues, for a little while, accrue to Nevada. By far the larger amounts are sent out of state, to investors who have never seen Nevada and have little interest in its history or its economy. We are sacrificing Nevada's long range interests, based on tourism, for short range out-of-state interests in mineral extraction. This practice does not make sense.

Ranchers can participate in the tourism benefits sought by the State. Tourism can help them maintain their spreads and enjoy the life style they love so well, if they will open their ranches to tourists. Dude ranching once was a big factor in Nevada; in the 1930s and 1940s, ranches opened their bunkhouses to dudes seeking Nevada divorces. Only with the postwar growth of large hotel/resorts was the dude ranch displaced from its important tourism role. Today's ranchers can find eager visitors, both foreign and domestic, who wish to touch the real Old West, and who can find the genuine article in rural Nevada. Nevada's ranchers have an opportunity to seize the best of both worlds--ranching and solid economic base--by sharing their ranches and the beauty of Nevada with paying guests. Untouched wilderness, not vast open pits and dumps, is important to ranchers in a tourism state.

Mining is having negative impact on ranching in other ways. Water sources and grazing lands have been obliterated in the pursuit of gold. While the rancher may be paid for these losses, these drastic changes in Nevada's environment will impact the land in many ways. Soil erosion increases, trees and grasses disappear, wild animals and domestic animals cannot be supported. Wilderness lands become more important still in such a landscape. The destruction resulting from mining must be balanced by the positive effects of lands managed for plentiful, clean water, pure air, and silence. Nevada's residents and visitors deserve no less.

Finally, I cannot close without mentioning the importance of caring for Nevada's cultural heritage. Archaeological and historical sites are valuable assets to the state and nation; they tell us who we were, where we came from, perhaps give us some idea of where we are going and how we might get there. They are also important tourist attractions. Ghost towns, Indian rock art sites, pueblo remains and roasting pits are all popular places to take visitors. Sites located at high altitudes are rare, but in Nevada there are such resources. At Alta Toquima in the proposed Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Area, there is a site 9000 feet above sea level. This village is so remote that archaeologists had to be provisioned by helicopter. Yet, despite the hardships that the restriction against mechanized transport will present to future work at this and other sites, the eleven Nevadans who comprise the Advisory Board to the State Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology have elected to support wilderness designation for Mt. Jefferson. Approved wilderness management practices will not prevent further excavations at this or other important sites located in proposed wilderness areas.

Furthermore, roadlessness is a boon to the management of historical resources. Such resources, whether historical or archaeological, are nonrenewable; they are irreplaceable. Whenever such sites become accessible by road, they are destroyed. In 1979 I participated in an evaluation of such sites in the Calilfornia Desert Conservation Area.

The single most important cause of the destruction of these resources proved to be accessibility by motor vehicle. The study documented the acceleration of site destruction that resulted from road building and invention of off-road vehicles. Historic sites which had withstood natural elements for over one hundred years and prehistoric sites thousands of years old succumbed to vandalism within one to three years of road building to or near the site. The road need not be paved and graded; any rough powerline road was sufficient to cause immense damage to these irreplaceable resources. Wilderness designation precludes road building, and such classification for the 21 areas support by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness would assist materially in preserving our heritage for all of us today and for generations well into the future to enjoy and to learn from.

Preservation of a portion of Nevada's wild mountains is essential for Nevada and for our nation. I ask your support for the Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposal to give such protection to 21 roadless areas in Nevada. We ask Congress to provide some balance in the management of the huge federal interests in our state; reserve for Americans now and in the future the privilege of knowing the West as it was in the past.

Thank you.

Senator BUMPERS. Let me just make an observation, and that is, Nevada has 70 million acres of land. This bill would represent 85/100th of one percent.

I always have difficulty believing that is going to be the end of the world when you set aside 85/100ths of one percent.

We had a very controversial wilderness bill in my State. Happily, both Senators agreed on it. The full delegation did not. And it was a lot more than the Forest Service recommended.

We do not have a lot of Federal land. All of the land in our State is developed. There just is not the opportunity that you have there.

But the point I want to make is, while visitation to wilderness is still small, the percentage increase each year is growing exponentially. And people are finally beginning to sort of focus on wilderness areas for the first time.

I remember when I was first elected governor, somebody said, you ought to put a wilderness bill in. And I said, well, that sounds pretty good, put one in. And I did not know what a wilderness was.

One legislator said, what do you want with a wilderness. We can grow wilderness areas.

But that was one of the few bills when I was governor that I did not get passed, because it was just very difficult, even for me who was sponsoring the legislation, to appreciate it.

And it has just been through a number of years that my own awareness of what a wilderness is, and why they are important, has come to fruition.

But in any event, it is a tourist mecca, and is going to become even more so.

Senator Hecht?

Senator HECHT. As I said, I will not prolong the hearing. But I do want to address what you just mentioned. 87 percent of our land is owned by the Federal Government. We have given a tremendous amount of our land, for example Nevada test site, I do not have the exact acreage, but it is huge, bigger than most eastern States.

Nellis Air Force base——

Senator BUMPERS. Incidentally, where is that testing done? I am looking at a map of Nevada. Where is the testing done?

Senator HECHT. Well, you are going to put that stuff there, so you should know where to put it. [Laughter.]

You know where you decided to put the nuclear waste last week.

Senator BUMPERS. Is that the same place we test?

Senator HECHT. Same place you test. About a four iron away. A long four iron. For you, probably an eight iron.

Senator BUMPERS. Senator, I have voted one time for an amendment that I thought had a lot of merit, and that is that everybody who had nuclear power would be responsible for keeping the waste in their own States.

Senator HECHT. Sounds good to me. I go for it. I knew you were an astute man.

Senator BUMPERS. I interrupted you.

Senator HECHT. No, no, I would like for you to keep talking. Would you continue on with that legislation you introduced?

Senator BUMPERS. Well, I bet you would not have voted for it. It was offered by Senator McGovern. And that is one of the reasons it did not get many votes around here.

But I thought it had a lot of merit.

Senator HECHT. Would you like to cosponsor it with me?

Senator BUMPERS. No, because now we have two plants in our State, and we want to send ours to Nevada like everybody else.

Senator HECHT. I hope that is going to be a matter of record. [Laughter.]

Senator BUMPERS. The record will show that the audience laughed. [Laughter.]

Senator HECHT. Twice.

Senator BUMPERS. Senator Reid.

Senator REID. Mr. Chairman, just one brief comment. I think this panel represents some really good things in our country.

First of all it represents this issue as being bipartisan. This is not a Democratic-Republican issue. This young physician here on this panel really put his business—he was a new physician. He came to Elko County, a Republican. And he supported the wilderness concept.

And he supported it not by writing secret letters as many have done, or calling me, saying I am for this, but do not tell anybody. He was open in supporting this.

And it was to his detriment as a physician and a businessman, but it was to his benefit as a human being. He was a leader in this, and I commend him for this. Pete Sferrazza, the Mayor of Reno, he did something that people said he was a little bit out of line doing. He got the City Council of Reno to sponsor a resolution asking for wilderness in the State of Nevada.

And they said, hey, your career is gone. You are all through. Well, he was just reelected mayor of the City of Reno easily.

And I have not done this publicly. But I commend you, Mayor Sferrazza, for being as courageous as you were on an issue that you had nothing to gain. It was only a downer for you. It was very supportive of me.

But as far as you as a person and as a politician, it was no help to you. At least people said it was not. But I think it has proven that it was a courageous thing to do, and a right thing to do.

And I could tell stories about all of these people at the front of this table who have spent their own time, efforts and money to make something they believe in. You know, that's what our country is all about, in trying to do things that you believe in.

They have not been paid large sums of money to do this. Frankly, as some on the other side have done. They have done it because they think it is the right thing to do. And this is not a partisan issue.

And I really appreciate these people travelling back here. And I appreciate your listening to me, Mr. Chairman.

Senator BUMPERS. Let me express my appreciation, not just to this panel, but to the preceding panel, and the two panels yet to come.

I know that it is quite a chore, not only to draft a statement and try to fit it into three minutes, but to fly six hours in order to come here to Washington to be able to state your position in three minutes.

That is quite a chore, quite a burden. But I do not want you think that this committee is not grateful for your efforts, and we thank you very much for it.

Our third panel is Phyllis Dobbins, President, Southern Nevada Landcruisers; Perry Dickerson, Representative, Nevada Rifle and Pistol Association; James J. Baker, Director of Governmental Affairs, National Rifle Association; A. Grant Gerber, Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy; and D. George Corner, Mayor of Elko.

Phyllis, your name is first here, so would you be kind enough to lead off?

STATEMENT OF PHYLLIS DOBBINS, PRESIDENT, SOUTHERN NEVADA LANDCRUISERS

Ms. Dobbins. My name is Phyllis Dobbins. I was born in Nevada. My daddy was also, and his daddy before him.

I am a responsible taxpayer, and I do not want to be locked out of my land, because I do love Nevada.

I have been bestowed with a great honor to represent organized four-wheeling in Nevada. Also, the businesses whose lifeblood depends on this recreation. Our Gem Society. Also, four-wheeling clubs of California, since our States do interact, and things that are happening in California affect us, as well as things happening in Nevada affect them.

We are a small part of a coalition that is determined to stay a cohesive unit to see that our desires and needs are respected. And also note too that the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce opposes the wilderness bill.

We support multiple use of the forest lands. The Forest Service has done a credible job of managing the uses in these areas. So why should we have more laws and more policing with an already overextended treasury.

And the other groups on the other side claim preservation is necessary, that the majority of people are destroying the wilderness or the wild areas.

Granted, there are some that do, but the majority of us are caring and concerned people. We respect also what ranchers have done in providing water in the dry places.

Our birds, toads, deer, mountain sheep are all enjoying this bounty. It is a very precious commodity in the desert.

Preservationists want to end this impact on wilderness; go back to the natural way. And it will certainly affect a great deal, especially desert Big Horn.

It is really impossible to take our lands back to the way they used to be, for ancient water holes, because we have built cities around them.

Now we need to give our support to our wildlife. We have to set aside places to make water for them.

Preservation groups such as the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, and Earth First—they like to have the exclamation point—all other cry in that type of group, look at the wilderness situation today compared to what it was around the turn of the century.

It certainly is a big difference, all right. I think they have forgotten that there are hundreds of times more people living in this country today. This means more urban sprawl, more shopping centers, more vehicles, more graveyards.

Are they going to stop having the children that are impacting our land today? Are they going to set an example for others to follow?

And I think education today of our children is more important. And it will teach them how to use our wild lands.

I personally like to drive to the mountains with my club, and also individually, on days that the summer ranges from 100 to 120 on the desert floor. And I do not want to see discrimination against the very young or the elderly or the infirm, the people who are told to pay your taxes but stay out of this land.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Dobbins follows:]

STATEMENT BY PHYLLIS DOBBINS, PRESIDENT OF THE
SOUTHERN NEVADA LANDCRUISERS
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURSES
RE: BILL S. 1138
"NEVADA WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT OF 1987".

My name is Phyllis Dobbins, I am a lifelong resident of Las Vegas and a third generation Nevadaen. My daddy and his daddy were born in Lincoln County. I love this wonderful desert and mountains of my state and as a taxpayer and responsible citizen, I don't want to be locked out of my land.

I have been bestowed with the great honor to represent organized four wheeling groups, businesses whose lifeblood depend on the recreation, our Gem Society and those who enjoy our annual off highway races. Not only those in southern Nevada but 200+ 4X4 clubs in California, since our states ineract a great deal. As you can see by this there are a great number of families and individuals extremely concerned with the outcome of the proposed bill S. 1138. We are a small part of a coalition that is determined to stay a cohesive unit to see that our desires and needs are respected.

Please note that the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and Citizens for Resposible Government unanimously oppose the wilderness bill. We support multiple use of our forest lands. The Forest Service has done a credible job in managing uses. Why should we have more laws made and more policing with an already over extended treasury?

We feel the wilderness legislation as intended and pushed through our governmental system in the 1960's could have been, in many ways, good for all but the whole process was managed mainly by the Sierra Club and slanted to their views that the common folk don't know what is good for them so they will decide for us.

This group claims preservation is necessary, that the majority of people are destroying the wild places. Granted there are outlaw four wheelers, just as there are outlaw hikers but as a whole we are concerned and take care of the places we visit. We respect also what ranchers have done in providing water in dry places. Our birds, toads, deer and mountain sheep are all enjoying this bounty, thes precious commodity. Preservationists want to end all this "impact" on wilderness, go back to the "natural" way so they can hike into places where there will be no birds singing, quail mommy, daddy, and babies crossing the way in front of you. Desert bighorn will be affected a great deal. Since it is really impossible to take our lands back to the way they used to be. We have built cities around their ancient waterholes and very little exists without a population of people around it. Our wildlife need our help to survive.

Preservation group as the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Earth First! and others all cry-- look at the wilderness situation around the turn of the century and compare to today. Why of course, have they forgetten there are 100's times more people. Are they planning to stop having children? More people, more urban sprawl, more shopping centers, more vehicles. Let them set the example for others to follow.

Education of our children today is more important than shutting them out because so called preserving pristine places for the future means nothing if you can never see it in your life. This can not teach them the valuable lesson of caring, protecting, leaving only their tracks behind.

Nature has created areas that are in themselves wilderness, the mountains rugged tops- the deserts impassable places - and [illegible] should remain so indefinitely.

I personally and with my club like to drive to the mountains on days when the desert floor has temperatures ranging 100-120. Living in an arid environment makes one appreciate having a place to go in the summer. Our groups don't want to see our lands closed and stingily kept for the few who are young, healthy, trained for hiking and can also take long vacations. This is discrimination of the greatest sort. The very young, elderly, the infirm will be told you pay your taxes, this is your land but stay out!!

I would also like to add that although when one looks at a map and outlines the proposed wilderness, thay really seem so small a portion of our state. But let's look a little closer, there the Jarbridge Wilderness on the map and low and behold, there is now a proposal to extend that even farther. The repetitious requests for more areas to set aside can only lead to one end. When we are all in tall cities surrounded by wilderness, policed to keep us out. Those that I represent want to stress to all of you, if we can not use our mountains then the self-righteous preservationists can't either. We will not tolerate such snobbery.

Thank you for listening today.

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you very much, Ms. Dobbins.
Mr. Dickerson.

STATEMENT OF PERRY D. DICKERSON, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, NEVADA RIFLE & PISTOL ASSOCIATION

Mr. **Dickerson**. Mr. Chairman, committee, my name is Perry D. Dickerson. I am the past president of the Nevada State Rifle and Pistol Association, currently first vice president.

I represent the following sportsmen organizations in Nevada: Desert Sportsmen's Rifle and Pistol Club; the New White Pine Sportsmen's Club; the Big Horn Rifle and Pistol Club; Nevada Hunters, Sportsmen and Trapper's Association; Nevada Outfitters and Guide Association; and the Silver State Hunting Club.

In addition to these sportsmen's associations, we have requested the help of the National Rifle Association in this bill.

We represent the majority of sportsmen in the State of Nevada, and we are all opposed to the legislation, because nowhere in the pending legislation are these vitally important key issues addressed.

It denies access to the hunters; closes roads that Nevada sportsmen have used for decades; stops wildlife habitat improvements; severely curtails wildlife management practices; closes out the senior citizen, of which I am one, and can no longer make it back to my old hunting ground under these circumstances.

For instance, it has been circulated by the proponents of this bill that these so-called Nevada wilderness areas are roadless. This is a gross misrepresentation. Nothing could be further from the truth. Anyone who has hunted in these areas knows this to be the basic fact.

The roads that Nevada sportsmen now enjoy the use of in these so-called wilderness areas were built by prospectors, ranchers, hunters, and even the Civilian Conservation Corps during the depression. Some go back before the turn of the century.

The second extremely dangerous myth advocated by the supporters of this bill is that by, quote, return to natural wildlife will benefit, unquote. This is another emotional statement that is completely devoid of any sound, rational fact.

As proven by 50 years of hands-on wildlife management practices in this country, this is what has helped our wildlife population to thrive and grow.

We only have to look at the Federal Aid and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, also known as the Pittman-Robinson act, to comprehend how hands-on wildlife management practices have provided this country with a record number of wildlife.

For example, in the 1900's, there were approximately 40,000 elk. Today there are around a million. In 1930, wild turkey were scarce. Today there is over 2 million.

The wood duck was close to extinction in 1920. Today the wood duck is the second most common waterfowl, at around 12 million.

White tail deer in the 1920s numbered around 500,000. Today white tail deer numbers exceed 13 million.

This phenomenal wildlife success story is because of the rational, hands-on wildlife management practices, in addition to the $1.5 billion the sportsmen and hunters of this country have supported the Pittman-Robinson act with.

The 11 percent excise tax on sporting firearms and ammunition, sportsmen have provided virtually all of the funding for the Pittman-Robinson act.

These sound wildlife management practices will be sacrificed in this legislation. This is an amateurish belief that a return to nature, with a hands-off attitude towards wildlife, will enhance our wildlife populations.

I have only scratched the surface. I could talk on this subject for hours, and if this hearing were held in the State of Nevada, where I believe it should be, I assure you I could fill this room and several more just like it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today.

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you.

Mr. Baker.

STATEMENT OF JAMES J. BAKER, DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Mr. **Baker**. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning.

The National Rifle Association is an organization whose members are committed to the responsible conservation of wildlife and public lands.

As an organization comprised mainly of hunters, we are becoming increasingly concerned about the effect wilderness designation has on the availability of hunting land and wildlife management.

I speak today as a representative of our over 17,000 members from the State of Nevada, as well as additional thousands of Nevada hunters.

I would like to address two major concerns the National Rifle Association has regarding the Nevada wilderness bill as introduced by Senator Reid.

First, it is difficult to believe that those of us who do not live in Nevada can represent the best interests of that State. One look at all of the different Nevada wilderness bills that had been introduced last session and this session will show that there is hardly a consensus among Nevadans as to the best disposition of Nevada's public lands.

The NRA believes that pressing this legislation forward without additional hearings in Nevada is unwise and short-sighted. We realize that there have been Nevada hearings last session, but we think that there ought to be more, since this is a different bill.

Our Nevada members represented by the Nevada Rifle and Pistol Association. The desert sportsmen, and the Big Horn Rifle and Pistol Sportsmen's Association have passed a resolution in opposition to S. 1138.

Our second concern, and more general concern, is that since the establishment of the National Wilderness system, no studies have been conducted to assess the impact wilderness designation has had on local economies, wildlife management, and wildlife populations.

According to information we received from the Congressional Research Service, to the best of their knowledge, no studies have been conducted after an area has been declared a wilderness area.

The only materials available involve projected studies before wilderness has been imposed.

We would urge this committee to seriously consider requiring a study be done and a report given before further action is taken on pending wilderness bills.

While the NRA has in the past remained neutral on matters of wilderness designation, because of the maintenance of hunting and trapping, our ever increasing membership and the hunters of America, are demanding that their concerns be addressed.

It has become apparent that neutrality is no longer possible. So apparent in fact that this past April the NRA board of directors passed a resolution regarding hunting activities in wilderness. And I have attached a copy of that to my testimony.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the country's most active conservationists, American hunters.

Thank you.

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you, Mr. Baker.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Baker follows:]

TESTIMONY OF JAMES JAY BAKER
DIRECTOR
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

BEFORE THE

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS

AUGUST 4, 1987

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. The National Rifle Association is an organization whose members are committed to the responsible conservation of wildlife and public lands. As an organization comprised mainly of hunters, we are becoming increasingly concerned about the effect wilderness designation has on the availability of hunting land.

I speak today as a representative of our 17,000 plus members from the State of Nevada, as well as additional thousands of Nevada hunters.

I would like to address two major concerns the National Rifle Association has regarding the Nevada wilderness bill. First, it is arrogant to believe that those of us who do not live in Nevada can represent the best interests of that state. One look at all of the Nevada wilderness legislation introduced by that state's delegation will show you that there is not a consensus even among Nevadans as to the best disposition of Nevada's public lands!

The NRA believes that pressing this legislation forward without hearing from the most critically affected — the Nevadans — is unwise and shortsighted. We urge this committee to hold field hearings in Nevada as soon as reasonably possible.

Our Nevada members, represented by the Nevada Rifle and Pistol Association, the Desert Sportsmen, and the Big Horn Rifle and Pistol and Sportsmen Association, have passed a resolution in opposition to S. 1138. They should not be denied the right to come before you as individuals to petition their government with their specific concerns.

Our second concern is the fact that, since the establishment of the National Wilderness System, no studies have been conducted to assess the impact wilderness designation has had on local economies, wildlife management and populations, etc.

According to information received from the Congressional Research Service, to the best of their knowledge, "no studies have been conducted after an area has been declared a wilderness area. The only materials available involve projected studies before wilderness has been imposed." To continually place land into wilderness designation without assessing the impact that designation has had around the country is to proceed in ignorance of whether Wilderness designation is in this nations best long-term interest. We would urge this committee to seriously consider requiring a study be done and a report given before any further action is taken on pending wilderness bills.

While the NRA has, in the past, remained neutral on matters of wilderness designation, our ever increasing membership, and the hunters of America are demanding that their concerns be addressed. It has become apparent that neutrality is no longer possible. So apparent, in fact, that this past April, the NRA Board of Directors passed a resolution regarding hunting activity in wilderness.

I have attached a copy of that resolution to my testimony.

Mr. Chairman, we have received many communications from our members in Nevada who are concerned about the future of hunting in their state. They want to be assured that future generations will have the same opportunities they have had. A good start in assuring that future is to address the two concerns I have raised.

I thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to plead the case of our country's most active conservationists — America's hunters.

WHEREAS, Lawful hunting has been significantly curtailed by certain unreasonable regulations adopted as a result of the expansion of the National Wilderness System and National Park System; and

WHEREAS, These arbitrary and capricious regulations in fact do not promote the interests of wildlife conservation or the responsible public enjoyment of wilderness lands, contrary to the intent of Congress; and

WHEREAS, The National Rifle Association of America in fulfillment of its purposes to promote hunting and the conservation and wise use of our renewable wildlife resources has become increasingly concerned with this abridgement of the rights of law abiding citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Rifle Association of America opposes any further expansion of the National Wilderness System and National Park System and implementing regulations that do not adequately recognize and preserve existing hunting access and opportunities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Rifle Association of America supports the restoration of hunting access and sound wildlife management practices in such areas where they have been improperly curtailed.

Senator BUMPERS. Mr. Gerber.

STATEMENT OF A. GRANT GERBER, EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN, NEVADANS FOR A PRACTICAL WILDERNESS POLICY

Mr. GERBER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Grant Gerber. My family first came to Nevada in 1852.

I am here today as the executive vice chairman of Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy, a coalition of over 30 organizations representing skiers, hunters, miners, hunters, realtors, city businessmen, campers, ranchers, snowmobilers, off-road vehicle users, senior citizens, and others.

The coalition includes many people that you would not consider primary users of the land.

Our coalition opposes S. 1138.

I am also the chairman of the Wilderness Impact Research Foundation, a national organization designed to study the impact of presently designated wilderness and proposed wilderness.

Congress has designated 90 million acres as wilderness already. There are approximately 120 million acres in wilderness study area status. That acreage would equal the States of California, Nevada, and nine-tenths of the State of Utah.

Congress has had no oversight hearings or studies conducted to determine the impact of the present 90 million acres of Federally designated wilderness to guide the Congress in determining whether it is wise to place additional lands into wilderness status.

As the preservationists make their demands for additional multimillions of acres, they present no proof that the previous designations were beneficial to the wildlife and the land.

The American Farm Bureau and the National Rifle Association, with a combined membership of 6½ million both directly challenge the assumption by the preservationists that no management is beneficial to the wildlife and the land.

The National Rifle Association states, these arbitrary and capricious regulations in fact do not promote the interests of wildlife conservation.

The American Farm Bureau agrees, stating, experience has shown that the no-management concept, applied under the Wilderness Act of 1964, has resulted in the serious degradation of the resource.

The major Indian tribes of Nevada have voted to opposed any additional Federal wilderness designation. The State legislature voted 60 to 3, and the governor signed the resolution supporting a wilderness bill less than one-fourth the size of S. 1138.

The Nevada Association of Counties overwhelming opposes this bill.

The elected officials of Elko County voted unanimously to oppose any additional wilderness in Elko County.

Hunting will be affected because the no-management concept will hurt wildlife and the land. Also, closing hunter road will prevent many areas from being hunted.

Several areas have known mineralization and known oil and gas potential will be closed.

By changing the zoning of the land to a more restricted category, grazing will be reduced or lost. The opportunity for the best potential ski development in northeastern Nevada will be lost.

At present there is no ski resort in northeastern Nevada. However, an existing 10-year-old heli-ski operation will be eliminated.

No future campgrounds will be allowed in these prime areas, and sanitation will suffer because of the prohibition on sanitary facilities.

Much of the best snowmobiling in Nevada will be eliminated. Present water rights and future water needs of Nevada cities will be jeopardized by this bill. The loss to Nevada as a result of this bill will be less wildlife, lost recreation, lost jobs, and billions of dollars of loss to our economy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator BUMPERS. Thank you, Mr. Gerber.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gerber follows:]

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON

PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS AND FOREST

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HEARING ON S.1138

AUGUST 4, 1987

STATEMENT BY

A. GRANT GERBER

REPRESENTING NEVADANS FOR A PRACTICAL WILDERNESS POLICY

555 6TH STREET
ELKO, NEVADA 89801

PHONE: (702) 738-2009

My name is A. Grant Gerber. My family first came to Nevada in 1852. I am here today as the Executive Vice-Chairman of Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy, a coalition of over thirty organizations representing skiers, hunters, miners, realtors, city businessmen, campers, ranchers, snowmobilers, off road vehicle users, senior citizens and others. The coalition includes many people that you would not consider primary users of the land. Our Coalition opposes S. 1138.

I am also the Chairman of the Wilderness Impact Research Foundation, a national organization designed to study the impact of presently designated wilderness and proposed wilderness.

There has been ninety million acres of wilderness already designated and one hundred and twenty million acres of land are presently under wilderness study area status in the United States. This combined acreage would be as much land as the entire State of California, the entire State of Nevada and nine-tenths of the State of Utah. Congress has had no oversight hearings or studies conducted to determine the impact of the present ninety million acres of federally designated wilderness to guide the Congress in determining whether it is wise to place additional lands into wilderness status.

The stated justification for federal wilderness designation by the preservationists is that it is beneficial to wildlife and the land. As the preservationists make their demands for additional multi-millions of acres, they present no proof that the previous designations were beneficial to the wildlife and the land.

The nations largest conservationist/hunter organization and the nations largest agricultural organization, the National Rifle Association and the American Farm Bureau with 6½ million members, both directly challenge the assumption by the preservationists that "no management" is beneficial to the wildlife and the land. The National Rifle Association states in its 1987 Resolution on wilderness that, "These arbitrary and capricious regulations in fact do not promote the interests of wildlife conservation."

The American Farm Bureau agrees stating in their resolution, "Experience has shown that the 'no management' concept applied... under the Wilderness Act of 1964 has resulted in the serious degradation of the resource."

Alston Chase in his book "Playing God in Yellowstone" directly challenges the assumption on the part of the preservationists that "no management" is good for wildlife and the land. Chase states "Wilderness was defined into existence.

It did not matter that there never was a place on earth untrammeled by man.... All western lands in particular had been trod by the early white man.... Early settlers plowed and planted in the most surprising places. They introduced viruses, microbes, plants and animals that centuries ago spread like wildfire to every nook and cranny of the continent.... The new definition of wilderness replaced science with romance.... In writing man out of wilderness this new vision of original America was omitting the Indian." (Pages 45 and 46)

The Indian tribes of Nevada have voted to oppose any additional Federal wilderness designation. The State legislature voted 60-3 and the Governor signed the Resolution supporting a wilderness bill one-fourth the size of S. 1138. The Nevada Association of Counties also overwhelmingly supported a wilderness bill that is one-fourth the size of S. 1138. The elected officials of Elko County voted unanimously to oppose any additional wilderness in Elko County. Nevadans are not in favor of excessive wilderness and as people become aware of the negative impact that wilderness creates the ranks of those opposed to excessive wilderness are expanding.

Joe Garcia, Chairman of the Nye County Board of Commissioners, called me on Friday night, four days ago. He said he was very unhappy about this hearing and asked me to relay the opposition of the County Commission and the people of Nye County. Mr. Garcia had just been informed of the hearing. The elected officials in the areas to be affected were not formally notified. Mr. Garcia was especially upset over a hearing that would discuss designating 250,000 acres of county land as wilderness without officially notifying the local elected officials. He said Nye County has over one-third of it's county land in the Federal Test Site - all off-limits - and to now make an additional 250,000 acres off-limits is unacceptable.

The State of Nevada has benefitted from its hunters, trappers, skiers, ranchers, snowmobilers, farmers, miners, oil and gas people. These activities should all be encouraged to continue especially in view of the fact that the preservationists have not demonstrated that these activities are detrimental to the land and wildlife. As a Sierra Club leader admitted, on a televised program on which I participated, their goal in Nevada is to have 10% of the State designated as wilderness. Their demand is for over seven-million acres of the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and National Wildlife Refuge lands. These lands are being used and to now deprive the citizens of Nevada from continuing to use them is unacceptable. Congress should first hold oversight hearings to determine the negative and positive impact of the present 90-million acres of Federally designated wilderness before going forward with massive new designations, especially in states where people in the areas to be affected are so adamantly opposed to the designations.

It appears that Nevada is the most mineralized of any state in the nation. Nevada has been mined for over 130 years. The geologists have now begun to find great new treasures of common and strategic minerals. In the State's 123 year history less than 40,000 acres of the land has been disturbed by mining, oil and gas exploration and extraction. Most of that land has already been recovered and much of the rest is in the process of recovery.

Ranchers have provided salt, water and irrigated lands for wildlife as well as their livestock. When the white man first came to Elko County there were virtually no deer. Now the deer herds number in the tens of thousands.

Hunters, ranchers, miners, off-road users, sometimes have their differences but they are working well together in Nevada to protect the land and should not be denied use, use that is presently being provided by the Multiple Use/Sustained Yield Concept.

S. 1138 will have a significant negative impact on Nevada wildlife, land, recreation, jobs, and the economy.

HUNTING - will be affected because the "no management" concept will hurt wildlife and the land. Also, closing hunter roads will prevent many areas from being hunted.

OIL AND GAS/MINING - Several areas of known mineralization and known oil and gas potential will be closed.

RANCHING - By changing the zoning of the land to a more restrictive category grazing will be reduced or lost.

SKIING - The opportunity for the best potential ski development in Northeastern Nevada will be lost. At present there is no ski resort in Northeastern Nevada. However, an existing 10-year old heli-ski operation will be eliminated.

CAMPING - No future campgrounds will be allowed in these prime areas and sanitation will suffer because of the prohibition on sanitary facilities.

SNO-TEL - Sno-Tel sites used by the State of Nevada to measure snow will be eliminated and future ones prohibited because access will be eliminated.

SNOWMOBILING - Much of the best snowmobiling in Nevada will be eliminated.

WATER RIGHTS - present water rights and future water needs of Nevada cities will be jeopardized by this Bill because of the Sierra Club law suit in Colorado that requires the Federal Government to claim the water in wilderness areas.

IN CLOSING - The loss to Nevada as a result of this bill will be less wildlife, lost recreation, lost jobs, and billions of dollars of loss to the economy.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, lawful hunting has been significantly curtailed by certain unreasonable regulations adopted as a result of the expansion of the National Wilderness System and National Park System; and

WHEREAS, these arbitrary and capricious regulations in fact do not promote the interests of wildlife conservation or the responsible public enjoyment of wilderness lands, contrary to the intent of Congress; and

WHEREAS, The National Rifle Association of America in fulfillment of its purposes to promote hunting and the conservation and wise use of our renewable wildlife resources has become increasingly concerned with this abridgement of the rights of law abiding citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that The National Rifle Association of America opposes any further expansion of the National Wilderness System and National Park System implementing regulations which do not adequately recognize and preserve existing hunting access and wildlife management opportunities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that The National Rifle Association of America supports the restoration of hunting access and sound wildlife management practices in such areas where they have been improperly curtailed.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU RESOLUTION - 1987

Wilderness Areas:

Experience has shown that the "no management" concept applied to certain areas under the Wilderness Act of 1964 has resulted in the serious degradation of the resource. A preponderance of evidence has demonstrated that the removal of all man-made facilities has resulted in sanitation and health problems that threaten the values the Act was designed to preserve. Established wilderness criteria further threaten such areas by prohibiting the employment of power tools and vehicles in watershed management, trail maintenance, soil treatment, noxious weed control, waste management and fire protection. (Continued).

Senator **Bumpers**. Mr. Corner.

STATEMENT OF D. GEORGE CORNER, MAYOR, ELKO, NV

Mr. **Corner**. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I have attached a copy of a joint resolution of Elko County governments with my written testimony and would ask that it be included as a part of the record.

For the record, I am George Corner. I have been mayor of the City of Elko for 13 years, a past president of the Nevada League of Cities.

I am a member of the Elko County Recreation Board. I am also a member of the State of Nevada multiuse advisory committee on Federal lands.

I am here today to represent the local governments of Elko County who are unanimous in their opposition to the designation of any additional wilderness areas in the county.

The great majority of people that we represent remain unconvinced that wilderness is in their best interests. We have been assured that our concerns are unfounded, or that they will be redressed by amendments to the proposed legislation.

Testimony on the negative impacts of wilderness, and our own personal experiences, have convinced us that additional wilderness designation in Elko County is inappropriate.

The proposed addition to the Jarbidge Wilderness, and the designation of the Ruby Mountains and the East Humboldt Range as wilderness would damage our economy and quality of life.

A thriving wilderness heli-ski operation and a quality snowmobiling area would be eliminated. Access roads that have been used for decades would be closed.

Habitat improvement and protection would be eliminated or severely restricted.

Management of the Forest Service lands, under the multiuse concept, has benefitted all the users of the land. Wilderness designation would benefit only a very small percentage.

The Forest Service was charged with identifying those lands under their jurisdiction that could qualify as wilderness. The professionals, assigned that task for Nevada, identified 173,871 acres in their original RARE I process.

That was not enough for the wilderness proponents, and their protest and clamor resulted in more studies. Criteria for land to qualify as wilderness was loosened, and more acreage was added.

The boundaries were aligned to go around roads and other manmade obstacles that could not be redefined out of existence under the proposed wilderness areas resembled political gerrymandering.

The Forest Service has now identified 452,010 acres in Nevada that could qualify as wilderness.

A reasonable person would expect only that land with the best qualifications would be designated as wilderness. The Nevada wilderness bill, S. 1138, contains 599,400 acres, much more than the Forest Service has identified.

Wilderness proponents argue that this would amount to only a small percentage of Nevada's land area. They choose to ignore the fact that the majority of our prime outdoor recreation areas are represented by that small percentage, and they would be closed to many of the people who now enjoy them.

This hearing is directed only at proposed Forest Service wilderness. The BLM currently has 76 wilderness study areas in Nevada, totalling 4.4 million acres.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has three areas totalling 1.7 million acres. This hearing is only one of many that the people of Nevada will have to attend to continue to defend the multiple use of our land.

We urge you to reject S. 1138. Thank you.

Senator BUMPERS. Thank you very much, Mayor.

[The joint resolution follows:]

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF
THE ELKO COUNTY RECREATION BOARD, THE ELKO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE CITY OF ELKO, THE CITY OF WELLS, THE CITY OF CARLIN, THE ELKO CITY-COUNTY CIVIC AUDITORIUM AUTHORITY, AND THE NORTH EAST NEVADA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Elko County Recreation Board convened its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on May 22, 1986, and at the same time and place the Elko County Commissioners convened a special meeting on behalf of the County of Elko, the Board of Supervisors of the City of Elko convened a special meeting on behalf of the City of Elko, the Board of Councilmen of the City of Wells convened a special meeting on behalf of the City of Wells, the Board of Councilmen of the City of Carlin convened a special meeting on behalf of the City of Carlin, the Board of Governors of the Elko City-County Civic Auditorium Authority convened a special meeting on behalf of the said Authority, and the Board of the North East Nevada Development Authority convened a special meeting on behalf of said Authority; and

WHEREAS, a discussion was held regarding the two United States Congress bills which would designate further wilderness area within Elko County, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Elko County currently has a wilderness area designated as the JARBIDGE WILDERNESS AREA which comprises 64,667 acres, and any additional wilderness designation in Elko County would be an unreasonable imposition on the recreational and economic interests of the residents of Elko County; and

WHEREAS, each political subdivision, upon a motion duly made and seconded and unanimously passed, the following joint resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Elko County Recreation Board, the Elko County Commissioners, the City of Elko, the City of Wells, the City of Carlin, the Elko City- County Civic Auditorium Authority and the North East Nevada Development Authority oppose any further designation of wilderness by the United States Federal Government in Elko County, Nevada.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 22nd day of May, 1986.

ELKO COUNTY RECREATION BOARD
By: Robert J. McBride
Chairman

ELKO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
By:
Chairman

CITY OF ELKO
By: D. George Corner
D. GEORGE CORNER, Mayor

CITY OF WELLS
By:
CHARLES M. NANINNI, JR., Mayor

CITY OF CARLIN
By: Earl Trousdale
EARL TROUSDALE, Mayor

ELKO CITY-COUNTY CIVIC AUDITORIUM
AUTHORITY

By: ______________________________
Chairman of the Board of
Governors

NORTH EAST NEVADA DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

By: Dick Snyde
Chairman of the Board

Senator BUMPERS. Senator Hecht?

Senator HECHT. Testimony was just handed to me from Shelly Wadsworth, executive secretary to the Economic Development Task Force of Lincoln County, and ask that it be included in the record.[1]

And will we have the record open for a week or so? Because I have other testimony that people want to include.

Senator BUMPERS. We will leave the record open for 2 weeks.

Senator HECHT. Mr. Dickerson, you mentioned about hearings in the State. Two years ago I had five hearings in the State, and overwhelmingly we got the response which we've heard from this panel here pertaining to wilderness.

But I do want to alert you that my staff and I will be traveling practically the entire month of August around the State, not just with large groups, but with small group also, you might say, ranchers.

We will be stopping at filling stations. And we hope to bring this subject of wilderness up every time we stop, and by the time we come back to Washington in September, I hope to have talked to a tremendous amount of people in Nevada, not just in the rural areas but in the urban areas.

Thank you for mentioning that.

Senator BUMPERS. Senator Reid?

Senator REID. Yes, quickly, Mr. Chairman, I would point out that Mr. Baker's testimony, we have two letters that I will make part of the record that I received from him last year indicating that they supported wilderness concept.

That is a letter dated October 7th and one April 29th.

Mr. Chairman, I would also ask to make part of the record a letter from Paul Delaguchi, the president of the Nevada Wildlife Federation, supporting wilderness, my wilderness bill, and also from the National Wildlife Federation, Jay Hare, who is the president of the National Wildlife Federation; and also, a statement from the board of wildlife commissioners, supporting the recommendation for wilderness.

I do that, Mr. Chairman, just so—in that this is a short hearing and not a lot of witnesses, so that we understand that there are many hunting, fishing people interested in wildlife who also support the concept of wilderness of course.

I would also point out very quickly in Mr. Gerber's testimony, I respectfully submit that it is somewhat misleading in that it talks about the amount of wilderness that is now existing that would make up the States of California, Nevada and nine-tenths of Utah.

Of course based on upon Mr. Murkowski's statement here this morning, 56 million acres of that is in the State of Alaska.

I would also point out that he's mentioned all these resolutions from various counties. We have, as indicated, a resolution from the city of Reno and Clark County supporting wilderness concept, and that makes up 85 percent of the people of the State of Nevada.

I would also point out that many people in the various counties have been given some false information. Wilderness basically only covers areas in two counties. That's the county of Elko and the county of Nie. The rest of it is fairly well agreed upon.

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[1] The statement appears in the Appendix.

So we have 17, 18 counties now in the State of Nevada now I guess. And the legislature created one for the high level nuclear waste repository if it comes, called Bullfrog County, and that is why we in Nevada can laugh at that.

But we have 17 counties, basically, only two of which have any wilderness that is controversial.

So the rest of the counties, they can pass resolutions and everything. But it does not affect anything within their boundaries.

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you, Senator Reid, and those letters will be included in the record.

[The letters dated October 7 and April 29, and a subsequent letter from Mr. Baker follow:]

[illegible]
Rec'd

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

October 7, 1986

Honorable James A. McClure
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pending before your Committee is S. 722, a bill, introduced jointly by Senators Laxalt and Hecht, that will create over 137,000 acres of wilderness lands in the State of Nevada.

The National Rifle Association, with over 3,500,000 sportsmen and sportswomen, (40,000 in Nevada) supports the concept of wilderness designation, so long as it does not result in the closure of lands traditionally open to hunting and the benefits of state wildlife management.

Senator Laxalt and Senator Hecht's legislation is far superior to H.R. 3302, introduced by Congressman Reid. H.R. 3302 would create over 592,000 acres of wilderness lands in the State of Nevada. But, far more deletorious is a section in the bill which creates the Great Basin National Park, which will result in the closure of lands traditionally open to hunting and the benefits of state wildlife management. In addition, this unusual precedent of a park designation within a wilderness bill will affect a recent program sponsored by sportsmen which involves the reintroduction of Rocky Mountain big horn sheep. Should this park section become law, the sportsmen who helped establish these wildlife populations would not be able to enjoy them nor would there be any incentive for further reintroductions elsewhere.

For these reasons, we ask the Committee's support for S. 722 which allows it acreage to be designated as wilderness lands, rather than the concept envisioned by H.R. 3302. The NRA strongly believes that wilderness status is far more compatible and beneficial for the land and its traditional uses, then that of park status.

We urge the Committee to give S. 722 its favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

James Jay Baker

James Jay Baker
Director
Governmental Affairs

cc Hon. Malcolm Wallop
Hon. Paul Laxalt
Hon. Chic Hecht

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

April 29, 1986

Dear Member of Congress:

Tomorrow the House of Representatives is expected to consider H.R. 3302, a bill that will create over 592,000 acres of wilderness lands in the State of Nevada.

The National Rifle Association and the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America, together with the over 3,750,000 sportsmen and sportswomen we represent, support the concept of wilderness designation. Unfortunately, H.R. 3302 contains a section which creates the Great Basin National Park which will result in the closure of lands traditionally open to hunting and the benefits of state wildlife management. In addition, this unusual precedent of a park designation within a wilderness bill will affect a recent program sponsored by sportsmen which involve the reintroduction of Rocky Mountain big horn sheep. Should the park section become law, the sportsmen who helped establish these wildlife populations will not be able to enjoy them nor would there be any incentive for further reintroductions elsewhere. Furthermore, the State wildlife agency will no longer have management jurisdiction over the sheep or any other wildlife species in the area since that responsibility would then rest with the National Park Service.

For these reasons, we ask that you support an amendment to be offered by Congresswoman Vucanovich that will delete the Great Basin National Park and allow its acreage to remain in National Forest designation. We strongly believe that National Forest status is far more compatible and beneficial for the land and its traditional uses, then that of park status.

We urge you to vote in favor of the Vucanovich amendment.

Sincerely,

James Jay Baker

James Jay Baker
Deputy Director
Governmental Affairs
National Rifle Association
of America

Carol Porter

Carol Porter
Director
National Affairs
Wildlife Legislative Fund
of America

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

August 6, 1987

The Honorable Barbara Vucanovich
U.S. House of Representatives
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Vucanovich:

As you know, the National Rifle Association testified this past Tuesday, on Senator Reid's Nevada Wilderness bill - S. 1138.

Following our testimony, Senator Reid requested that two letters sent from the NRA to the House of Representatives in 1986 be included as part of the official record. He indicated that these letters expressed support for wilderness designation.

While it is true that the NRA did not oppose wilderness designation, we have become increasingly concerned about the effect this has on wildlife management and hunting access. What Senator Reid did not say, was that the NRA absolutely opposed his bill - H.R. 3302, in the 99th Congress, and that we urged support for S. 722 -- a bill introduced by Senators Hecht and Laxalt.

Additionally, those letters were sent prior to the NRA board resolution passed in April, 1987. I have enclosed a copy of this resolution for your information.

If I can answer any questions regarding this, please contact me.

Sincerely,

James Jay Baker

James Jay Baker
Director
Governmental Affairs Division

JJB:mj
Encl.

WHEREAS, Lawful hunting has been significantly curtailed by certain unreasonable regulations adopted as a result of the expansion of the National Wilderness System and National Park System; and

WHEREAS, These arbitrary and capricious regulations in fact do not promote the interests of wildlife conservation or the responsible public enjoyment of wilderness lands, contrary to the intent of Congress; and

WHEREAS, The National Rifle Association of America in fulfillment of its purposes to promote hunting and the conservation and wise use of our renewable wildlife resources has become increasingly concerned with this abridgement of the rights of law abiding citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Rifle Association of America opposes any further expansion of the National Wilderness System and National Park System and implementing regulations that do not adequately recognize and preserve existing hunting access and opportunities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Rifle Association of America supports the restoration of hunting access and sound wildlife management practices in such areas where they have been improperly curtailed.

Senator BUMPERS. Ms. Dobbins and gentlemen, thank you very much for being with us this morning. I regret that we had to limit you to three minutes, and I know you would have liked to have gone much longer.

Panel four is Bob McGinty, Elko, Nevada; Julie Parks, Tuscarora, Nevada; Dave Miles, Reno, Nevada; Barbara Agonia of the Soropotimists of Las Vegas; Merlin McColm, Elko.

Mr. McGinty, please proceed.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT McGINTY, ELKO, NV

Mr. McGINTY. Mr. Chairman, Senators, my name is Robert McGinty. I am a fourth generation of Nevada, and a 10-year resident of Elko, Nevada.

I am a member of the Bureau of Land Management Elko District Advisory Council, and active in several conservation groups.

This is the first time I have ever been east of Wyoming, and yesterday was the first time I ever got on a jet in my life. And if I kind of shake a little——

Senator BUMPERS. That is kind of refreshing.

Mr. McGINTY. If things go as planned, in five days, I will be deer hunting in the Ruby Mountains, one of the areas proposed for wilderness designation by Senator Reid.

I lack the eloquence to communicate the beauty of these mountains, to say what they mean to Nevadans and to me personally.

The argument has been made that wilderness will lock out hunters and make some management difficult if not impossible. Neither is the case.

In fact, the State board of wildlife commissioners support designation of 24,610 acres of wilderness in 12 different areas, including Table Mountain which was discussed earlier today.

And the Nevada Department of Wildlife is on record as concurring with that recommendation.

Elko County today is the center of one of the biggest gold mining booms in history. Three weeks ago I toured the Newmont mine and others west of Elko, and I will tell you that the industry is flourishing in Nevada, and according to officials at Newmont, it will continue to flourish.

I can also tell you with great assurance that the designation of national forest lands as wilderness in Nevada will have no effect on the prosperity of mining in Nevada.

The Carlin Trend, the geological feature that contains the richest gold ore deposits in Elko County, is remote from any proposed wilderness, while lands proposed as wilderness have little mineral value.

The 19 areas proposed for wilderness in Congressman Darden's bill are, on the average, 97.5 percent free of any mining claims. Two of the areas, the East Humboldts and Elk Mountain, have no mining claims.

And the lands proposed in Senator Reid's bill, the percentage of acres freed from all mining claims is even higher, about 99 percent I believe.

My State is stippled with mining claims, over 295,000 at last count. Approximately .547 of these claims occur in areas proposed for wilderness.

Anyone who claims that any of the proposed wilderness legislation in either the House or the Senate will affect hunting in the areas proposed, or that grazing will be curtailed, or that mining in Nevada will suffer because of wilderness legislation—anyone who holds these views has chosen to ignore the facts, and has chosen to listen to the hysterical rhetoric that, unfortunately, has been raised in opposition to wilderness.

I enthusiastically support Senator Reid's bill. It is the strongest wilderness legislation to be introduced in the Senate, and will go far toward protecting some of my State's fragile, beautiful land.

I strongly, more strongly support the 21 areas the Friends of Nevada Wilderness have endorsed.

I urge you to join in the spirit of Senator Reid's bill, and give Nevadans and the nation strong and foresighted legislation that will preserve the great beauty of my home State.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. McGinty follows:]

Statement of Robert McGinty on S1138 before the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests, United States Senate, Washington, D.C., August 4, 1987.

Mr. Chairman, my name is Robert McGinty. I am a fourth generation Nevadan, and a ten-year resident of Elko, Nevada. I am a member of the Bureau of Land Management's Elko District Advisory Council and active in several conservation groups.

I come to you today with more than a little trepidation. This is the first time I've ever been east of Casper, Wyoming; and Monday morning was the first time I ever flew on a jet, so if I seem a little nervous, please bear with me.

Where I live there has been a relentless and prejudiced attack on the idea of wilderness and on those who support wilderness, so much so that some residents have come to believe the distortions and half-truths regularly reported in the local press.

I would like to speak to two of the issues concerning wilderness: hunting and mining.

If things go as I plan, in five days I will be bowhunting in the Ruby Mountains, one of the areas proposed for wilderness designation by Senator Reid. I simply lack the eloquence to communicate the beauty of these mountains, to say what they mean to Nevadans and to me personally. I have hunted, fished, and camped in several of the areas being considered for wilderness, in the East Humboldt Mountains, the Rubies, the Jarbidge additions, Mt. Rose. These areas are rich in wildlife and provide some of the best big game habitat in Nevada. The argument has been made that wilderness will lock out hunters and make game management difficult, if not impossible. Neither is the case. The 1964 Wilderness Act clearly guarantees the right to hunt in wilderness and gives the authority to manage game to the state. The chief difficulty hunters have in Nevada is gaining access through private lands adjacent to proposed wilderness areas. These areas--and I speak from having hunted them--are virtually roadless and their designation as wilderness will protect them for hunters. In fact, the Nevada State Board of Wildlife Commissioners supports the designation of 624,610 acres of wilderness in 12 different areas, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife is on record as concurring with that recommendation. I am convinced that wilderness is in the best interest of all hunters, and as a hunter I support wilderness.

Besides the fear of loss of recreation, many fear that wilderness will cripple mining in Nevada. Elko County is today the center of one of the biggest gold mining booms in history. Three weeks ago I toured the Newmont mine west of Elko and can tell you that the industry is flourishing in Nevada, and that, according to officials at Newmont, it will continue to flourish for many, many years. I can also tell you with great assurance that the designation of National Forest lands as wilderness in Nevada will have no effect on the prosperity of mining in Nevada. The Carlin Trend, the geologic feature that contains the richest gold ore deposits in Elko County, is remote from any proposed wilderness, while lands proposed as wilderness have little mineral value.

The 19 areas proposed for wilderness in Congressman Darden's bill (HR2044) are, on the average, 97.5% free of any mining claims. Two of the areas, the East Humboldts and Elk Mountain, have no mining claims. In the lands proposed in Senator Reid's bill (S1138), the percentage of acres free from all mining claims is even higher.

Senators, my state is stippled with mining claims, over 295,000 at least count. Approximately .547% of these claims occur in areas proposed for wilderness. The dearth of claims in these areas is indicative of their lack of mineralization. Put more simply, wilderness legislation will have no effect on Nevada's mining industry.

Anyone who claims that any of the proposed wilderness legislation in either the House or the Senate will affect hunting in the areas proposed, or that grazing will be curtailed, or water rights taken away, or that mining in Nevada will suffer because of wilderness legislation--anyone who holds these views has chosen to ignore the facts and has chosen to listen to the hysterical rhetoric that, unfortunately, has been raised in opposition to wilderness.

I have made a practice of relying on facts and of looking for the truth. My state's population is rapidly growing and the pressures on our environment are increasing daily. I enthusiastically support Senator Reid's bill. It is the strongest wilderness legislation to be introduced in the Senate and will go far in protecting some of my state's fragile, beautiful, untrammeled land, it will go far in protecting the Ruby Mountains and the East Humboldts, two of the precious gems of Nevada's wilderness country. But I consider S1138 a bare minimum and I strongly support the 21 areas the Friends of Nevada Wilderness have endorsed. Rather than lock Nevadans out, wilderness designation will keep these precious lands open to us always, as they are today, as they have been for centuries. Without protection their wild character will slowly but surely vanish, just as it has already vanished in much of my state. I urge you to join in the spirit of Senator Reid's bill and give Nevadans and the nation strong and foresighted legislation that will preserve the great beauty of my home state.

Robert

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you very much, Mr. McGinty.

Ms. Parks.

STATEMENT OF JULIE PARKS, TUSCARORA, NV

Ms. **Parks**. My name is Julie Parks, and I live in Tuscarora, Nevada, a small community of 30 to 40 summertime residents, and a wintertime population of 7, in the northeastern corner of the State.

Incidentally, this is just a few miles from the old Bing Crosby Ranch, and there are still no signs of where it is.

My husband Dennis and I founded the Tuscarora Pottery School in Tuscarora in 1966. Our students have come from across the United States, and from South America, Australia, and Europe.

Thank you for giving me a few minutes to explain why I want you to protect the 21 wilderness areas proposed by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

Recently I was distressed to hear that the economist Doug Casey, in his Investing in Crisis newsletter, wrote, after visiting the Carlin mining district in Elko County that an open pit gold mine in this part of Nevada would be comparable to a beautification project.

And so, to ask if anyone has any reservations about the beauty of Nevada, and questions whether or not the areas proposed qualified for wilderness, that you visit our State.

And if you have any doubts whether or not our forest lands actually need the protection of a wilderness bill, I invite you to Tuscarora.

Across the valley from where I live, even from a distance, you can view some of the damage that mining and mining exploration have brought about on lands encompassed in the Humboldt National Forest.

The land itself is fenced off and is no longer accessible to the public. Drill roads zigzag up the mountainsides. Entire mountains are being sacrificed. Beautiful canyons are being filled with debris.

The days of the lonely prospector leading his burro and digging his tunnels and with pick and shovel are gone forever.

For the Congressional Record, I would like to submit some photographs of a mining project that is just beginning, also in the Humboldt National Forest.

I suspect that when I took these photographs 3 weeks ago I was one of the last nonmining people to drive through this area before it will be closed for the duration of this mining project.

Two young Swiss potters accompanied me. As we came over the mountain, one of them said, they're scarring the face of Mother Earth.

It occurred to me then that essentially what we're asking of you is that a reasonable portion of our public lands be placed off limits to those who would scar the face of Mother Earth, a dowry in trust for our great and great-great grandchildren.

Of course we need industrial growth and essential minerals, but we also need areas of quiet, beauty, and tranquillity.

This is not just the opinion of one who lives in the country, but also, city dwellers who come for their vacations, the few weeks of the year that they treasure.

The land is vital to our nation just as it is, and without the protection of wilderness status, national forest land is subject to devastation.

Even the most environmentally sensitive mining company will not contradict me when I say you cannot reclaim an open pit mine.

Therefore, I urge you to designate the 21 areas proposed by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness as wilderness for this generation as well as those to come.

And in conclusion, I want to thank Senator Reid for introducing S. 1138 to protect 12 areas for wilderness. I appreciate your leadership on this issue, and I urge Senator Hecht to join in supporting as much wilderness for Nevada as possible.

Senator BUMPERS. Thank you, Ms. Parks. Is that a dirt road that goes to Tuscarora?

Ms. PARKS. Yes, the last 8 miles.

Senator BUMPERS. You are not far from a little stream there called Willow Creek?

Ms. PARKS. It is not too far away. There is a reservoir there.

Senator BUMPERS. How far?

Ms. PARKS. The Willow Creek reservoir is probably 15 miles west of us.

Senator BUMPERS. And there is a reservoir there on Willow Creek?

Ms. PARKS. Yes.

Senator BUMPERS. Thank you very much.

Mr. Miles.

STATEMENT OF DAVE MILES, RENO, NV

Mr. MILES. Mr. Chairman, Members of the committee, I am David Miles.

My wife Robin and I own and operate a recreational vehicle dealership in Reno, Nevada. I have lived in the Lake Tahoe-Reno area for 43 years.

I would like to thank Senator Reid, Representative Bilbray, for their efforts.

I support Friends of Nevada Wilderness' recommendation to protect 21 ecologically sensitive areas in Nevada from motorized travel.

We believe that camping near these natural wonders, and entering by foot or horseback would leave these special places safe and undamaged forever.

My wife and I noticed how similar the Virgin Islands are to Nevada. In the Caribbean you go from island to island by boat. In Nevada, you go to these beautiful islands in the sky by camper, trailer or motor home.

There are several nice places to camp. The Current Mountain area is a good example, where a comfortable camp can be set up within walking distance of the wilderness.

In many places a group of hikers can be left off on one side of the wilderness area and met by mobile camp on the other with all the conveniences of home.

We in the recreational vehicle business are proud when we leave camp with just the tire tracks.

Nevadans have had freedom to do pretty much what we are tough enough to do. But freedom to deface and destroy is something we must have laws against.

We need you to put into law what God has given us to protect and preserve.

About 20 years ago a friend that I went to school with got a job building condos along the shores of Lake Tahoe and Crystal Bay. As kids we played along those shores, jumping the huge granite rocks, fishing and swimming in the clear, cold waters of Lake Tahoe.

My job, as powder monkey, required that I drill and load those granite boulders and blow them into small pieces, so the cat skinner could come and rip for roads and footings in the steep banks of Crystal Bay.

In doing so, we tore into the natural underground water system feeding the lake. The spring eventually ran on top of the ground, taking mud and debris into the crystal clear water.

In those days this occurred all around the lake, and caused substantial damage.

I personally will carry the guilt of my part of that damage the rest of my life. Knowing it was wrong and getting paid for it makes it even more painful.

During the Congressional wilderness tour in 1985, a Congressman, a Senator and I found ourselves playing like 12 year olds along the creek, jumping from rock to rock, seeing who could get across without falling in. The Congressman fell in first.

Later the next day, I saw the Senator and commented that I hoped our great-great grandchildren would have the same opportunity to play by that beautiful clear stream. He didn't speak but just stared at me for a second; we understood each other.

For a mountain boy that went to a one-room school in King's Beach at Lake Tahoe, to be here is beyond my wildest dreams. I am must obliged.

Senator **Bumpers**. You are most welcome.

Ms. Agonia.

STATEMENT OF BARBARA AGONIA, SOROPOTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. **Agonia**. Mr. Chairman, Members of the subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity.

I am Barbara Agonia, an 18-year resident of the State of Nevada, a relative newcomer.

I am speaking to you today as president of Soropotimists International of Greater Las Vegas, and as representative of all the other Soropotimist clubs in southern Nevada and of Carson City, approximately 250 persons.

Ours is an organization of professional and executive women, dedicated to six programs of local as well as global significance.

These programs are economic and social development; education; environment; health; human rights; status of women; and international goodwill and understanding.

Obviously, we are not an organization likely to support any bill which would be detrimental to our economy or to individual rights.

Our clubs believe that the enactment of a strong wilderness bill reflects progress in all our areas of concern.

A few years ago when the Soropotimists Clubs I'm speaking for first heard a few special interest voices against designating a reasonable amount of wilderness, we began studies of economic impact and general public opinion, and consequently joined Friends of Nevada Wilderness to share in careful and scholarly research, and ultimately, a proposal that seems reasonable and equitable.

Since that time several Congressional bills have come and gone, and the State of Nevada is still without designated wilderness.

We are very grateful to Senator Reid for introducing S. 1138, certainly the best to be introduced by a Nevada Senator. We believe this bill could be measurably strengthened by adding the provisions of Mr. Darden's bill, H.R. 2044, and the Sweetwaters and Pearl Peak.

We also applaud Congressman Bilbray for introducing a highly responsible bill.

Soropotimists International members want you to know our attitudes about the importance of wilderness in the State of Nevada. We are actively involved in the economy there. We live there. We hope to prosper there. And we have families who need a future in the State of Nevada.

Wilderness touches all of these concerns. Among the 21 wilderness areas that we hope will be designated, there are sights that take one's breath.

You have heard again and again of the unparalleled beauty, and perhaps you have seen the remarkable almost infinitesimal plants that survive the most extreme conditions.

But this beauty also holds some precious resources which must not be ravaged by careless use or temporary expediency.

Will there be a bristle cone pine left for the future to ponder? Will there be a cool stream teeming with trout? Will there be wildflowers spreading delicate scent over a tiny portion of the landscape without buildings and asphalt?

Will there be air clear enough to see through, and clean enough to breathe?

If we deplete these natural resources at random, we place our future in dire jeopardy.

We ask to protect both the aesthetic aspects of nature and the valuable natural resources as insurance for the future. But we also do not choose to deprive anyone in the present, not one mine, not one grazing area, not one business or industry, will be infringed upon.

We ask only that incursion into the wilderness be prevented in the future, and that other lands be released for appropriate multiple use.

We hope that we will not lose the landscape that has become only a memory in other parts of the country. We ask that the wisdom of this 100th Congress give the State of Nevada, and therefore the entire nation, a wilderness enactment in excess of that proposed in S. 1138.

Thank you.

Senator BUMPERS. That is a beautiful statement, Ms. Agonia.

Ms. AGONIA. Thank you, sir.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Agonia follows:]

Soroptimist
INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER LAS VEGAS

STATEMENT OF BARBARA AGONIA, REPRESENTING SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER LAS VEGAS AND SPEAKING FOR SIX OTHER CLUBS OF SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks on S. 1138
August 4, 1987

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of a group of concerned citizens. I am Barbara Agonia, an eighteen year resident of the State of Nevada. Today I am speaking to you as President of Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas and as a representative of all of the other Soroptimist clubs in Southern Nevada and Soroptimist International of Carson City.

Soroptimist International is an organization of professional and executive women dedicated to six programs of service with local as well as global significance. These programs of service are Economic and Social Development, Education, Environment, Health, Human Rights/ Advancement of the Status of Women, and International Good Will and Understanding. The issue of wilderness designation is not simply an environment issue. Our clubs believe that the enactment of a strong wilderness bill reflects progress in all our areas of concern.

When the Soroptimist clubs I am speaking for heard public officials accepting the interests of a few voices against designating a reasonable amount of Nevada lands for wilderness, we began to advocate studies of economic impact, general public opinion, and alternative proposals. We joined Friends of Nevada Wilderness in order to share in the search for majority views, careful and scholarly research, and ultimately a proposal that seemed reasonable and equitable. Since that time, several Congressional bills have come and gone. The State of Nevada is still without designated wilderness except for a tiny area in the Jarbidge Wilderness.

We are grateful to Senator Reid for introducing S. 1138. It is certainly the best bill to be introduced by a Nevada Senator. However, we believe this bill could be measurable strengthened by adding the provisions of HR. 2044 (Darden) and further including the Sweetwaters and Pearl Peak. We also applaud Congressman Bilbray (HR. 2142) for introducing a highly

P.O. Box 66 Las Vegas, Nevada 89125

responsible bill. What concerns us here is that the acreage does not seem sufficient to protect the integrity of many of the areas. Additionally, we regret the exclusion of the Excelsiors, Elk Mountain, the Sweetwaters, Toiyabe Crest, Pearl Peak, the Schell Peaks, and the South Snake Range.

I have not come here today to give you a geography lesson, and I certainly am not interested in following or provoking political party alliances. Soroptimist International members want you to know their attitudes and feelings about the importance of wilderness in the State of Nevada. We are actively involved in the economy of Nevada. We live in Nevada and we hope to prosper there. We have families who need to have a future in Nevada. Both the present and the future hang on a delicate balance of work and play, of the pragmatic and the theoretical, of utility and aesthetics. Wilderness touches all of these.

Among the twenty-one wilderness areas we hope will be designated there are sights that take one's breath. You have heard again and again of the unparalleled beauty in the heights of the mountains, and perhaps you have seen the remarkable, almost infinitessimal plants that survive the most extreme temperatures and wind conditions. But this beauty also holds some precious resources which must not be ravaged by careless use or temporary expediency. Consider the protection of water in this arid State. Consider the history, the essential knowledge, that is so fragile in the archeological sites of these remote areas. Consider the future generations who will seek the freedom and relief of open space in a world ever more depersonalized by synthetic materials. Will there be a bristlecone pine left for them to ponder? Will there be a cool stream teeming with trout? Will there be wildflowers spreading there delicate scent over a landscape without buildings and thousands of acres of cement and asphalt? Will there be air clear enough to see through, clean enough to breathe?

In a more practical vein, will there be mountains enough left standing to provide us with strategic minerals should we ever need them for our national survival? Will there be water enough to drink? If we deplete these natural resources at random, we place our future in dire jeopardy.

What we ask for to protect both the aesthetic aspects of nature and the valuable natural resources of the land is insurance for the future, but it also does not deprive anyone in the present. Not one mine currently in operation, not one grazing area currently in use, not one business or industry, will be infringed upon. Yes, we ask that further incursion into the wilderness cease, but we do not seek to take any area which is already in use.

I am a literature teacher at Clark County Community College. When our students read American literature, they discover that the entire canon of that literature is concerned with the landscape. Yet the landscape of the past is all to rapidly becoming only a memory. What Thoreau and Emerson exalted in New England has dwindled to tiny patches of public lands. Let us not lose the lands exalted by Muir, Abbey, de Longchamps, and others. We ask that the wisdom of this one hundreth Congress give the State of Nevada, and therefore, the entire nation, a wilderness enactment in excess of that proposed in S. 1138.

Soroptimist
INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER LAS VEGAS

July 30, 1987

Senator Dale Bumpers
Subcommittee: Public Lands, National Parks and Forests
Dirksen Senate Office Building 308
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Bumpers:

At our regular meeting today, Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas re-affirmed our position to support 21 areas of designated wilderness for the State of Nevada. As executive and professional women living and working in the State of Nevada, we admit to a provincial concern for the continued existence of Nevada's natural beauty. At the same time, we are obviously interested in the economic growth and prosperity of our State. These positions are not inconsistent. The pristine wilderness is as much a guarantee of our future as are the various businesses and industries which enhance the economy, but often leave the State when other opportunities arise or the natural resources are exhausted.

We urge you to support S. 1138, introduced by Senator Reid and to look carefully the comparable House Bill. However, we also ask that the 38,000 acres of wilderness in the Arc Dome area be re-instated into the Senate Bill. These lands hold valuable landscape, historically significant archeological sites, and irreplaceable watersheds.

We are grateful to Senator Reid and Congressman Bilbray for representing the majority opinion on wilderness in our State, and we encourage your Subcommittee to recommend favorably the passage of a strong wilderness bill for the State of Nevada, and, indeed, for all who seek to preserve and enjoy the unique landscape of this State for generations to come.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara A. Agonia

Barbara A. Agonia, President

P.O. Box 66 Las Vegas, Nevada 89125

Soroptimist International of Boulder City

POST OFFICE BOX 61
BOULDER CITY, NEVADA 89005

July 27, 1987

Senator Dale Bumpers
Subcommittee on Public Land and National Parks
Dirksen Office Building #308
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Bumpers:

Soroptimist International of Boulder City, an organization of professional and executive women, strongly supports the enactment of a strong wilderness bill for the State of Nevada. Although we favor the designation of 21 wilderness areas in our State, we support Senator Reid's Bill (S. 1138) which we hope will be revised to include the 38,000 acres of Arc Dome wilderness which were withdrawn earlier.

The majority of Nevadans want to preserve the integrity of our landscape. We hope you will listen to the voices of those who murmer, rather than to the louder voices of those who may have a vested interest for shorter lasting goals.

Sincerely yours,

Eva McGarvey

Eva McGarvey, President

Soroptimist INTERNATIONAL OF HENDERSON
P. O. BOX 2419, HENDERSON, NEVADA 89015

July 28, 1987

Senator Dale Bumper, Sub Committee
Public Lands and National Parks
Dirksen Office Building #308
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Bumper:

The members of Soroptimist International of Henderson, Nevada are unanimous in their support of setting aside more land in Nevada to be designated as wilderness area.

We are pleased with Senator Reid's Wilderness Bill #S1138 and are supportive of this bill, except that we would like to see the 38,000 acres of Arc Dome land which was withdrawn from the bill be restored.

It is critical that we preserve the rugged beauty that is Nevada's heritage for the enjoyment of generations to come by setting aside large tracts of unspoiled, untouched areas for posterity.

Sincerely,

Freda Klein

Dr. Freda Klein,
PRESIDENT

cc: Senator Harry Reid
Congressman Jim Bilbray

SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL
OF
CREATIVE LAS VEGANS
P.O. BOX 73062
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89170

July 29, 1987

Senator Dale Bumpers
Sub-Committee Public Land &
National Parks
Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Bumpers:

Soroptimist International of Creative Las Vegans, comprised of business and professional women, would like you to know that we support the concept of 21 areas of wilderness in Southern Nevada. We support and applaud Senator Reid and Representative Bilbray for their reasonable approach toward wilderness. We definitely encourage passage of an adequate Wilderness Bill, thereby releasing additional acres being held pending wilderness designation. This acreage can then be available for multi-purpose use.

Our concern also lies with the 30,000+ acres removed from Art Dome. This area has been well known for its ease of access and excellent fishing.

We would appreciate any encouragement you could provide Senator Reid and Representative Bilbray in support of their Wilderness Bill. We feel they have done an excellent job in representing the concerns of Nevadans.

Sincerely,

Denise J Puhl

Denise J. Puhl
Director

cc: Senator Hecht
Senator Reid
Representative Bilbray
Representative Vucanovich

Senator **Bumpers**. Mr. McColm.

STATEMENT OF MERLIN A. McCOLM, ELKO, NV

Mr. **McColm**. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have submitted written testimony.

My name is Merlin McColm, and I'm a retired certified biologist and now a small businessman residing in Elko, NV.

I have lived in Nevada for 35 years. I have just returned from a tour of the People's Republic of China as a member of the Skoog Wildlife Management delegation under the people-to-people program.

As a guest of the Chinese government, we visited a number of China's nature reserves, and exchange information with Chinese scientists.

China with its billion-plus people is on the verge of losing many of its natural ecosystems. In a country where the value of land is at an absolute premium, China is trying to protect and expand these natural systems.

The People's Republic is trying to increase the total land area of their nature reserves, which are equivalent to our wilderness areas, from 0.7 percent of China's total land area to 3 percent.

How much easier it would have been to set aside adequate areas in the beginning as opposed to doing it now.

We should not make the same mistake. And I think China is living proof that it is very difficult to go back. They are having enormous problems, political problems, in trying to relocate people and reestablish some of the natural environment.

I think we have to recognize that except for primitive hunter-gathering types of societies, all civilizations have seriously degraded their environment over time.

History is replete with examples of societies that have collapsed because of depleted natural resources. It is the nature of civilized man to over exploit his environment. And realizing this, we cannot be too careful with our few remaining unspoiled areas.

I think history tells us that the great danger is not preserving too much wilderness, but preserving too little.

Wilderness values are often difficult to measure, as we all know, in monetary terms, compared to consumptive uses. The value of undamaged watershed, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, scientific considerations, are often very difficult to define.

Two of the greatest values of wilderness is as a repository for native plant and animal communities, and as a yardstick to monitor environmental change, natural or man-caused.

I was in Egypt some time back talking to a botanist there, concerning the restoration of manmade deserts along the upper Nile. These lands had been turned into deserts thousands of years ago.

And he was complaining, how can we restore an ecosystem when we do not even know what it consisted of.

And this pretty much sums up the value, I think, of these two aspects of wilderness. The Egyptian government is having very great difficulty in vegetating some lands that were previously probably very lush.

And our opponents arguments against wilderness, I have never heard one word of concern for the future of our wildlife. Nevada is losing game habitat everyday because of human population expansion, and we are very much concerned about this loss.

The condition cannot get better with population growth.

Of the wilderness bills that have been introduced into Congress this year, H.R. 2044, that includes 1.4 million acres in 19 roadless areas is most acceptable to me.

I am familiar with all these areas, and they are all uniquely different and outstanding.

I believe Senator Reid's bill, S. 1138, while a step in the right direction, is not comprehensive enough. It excludes several areas, such as the Toiyabe Crest, Currant Mountain, Elk Mountain, Santa Rosas shell peaks, and South Snake Range that should have wilderness status.

However, I don't want to sound unappreciative, Senator. I want to assure you, I am not. I recall that in the 99th Congress, that Congressman Reid was the only Member of Nevada's Congressional delegation that fought for a strong wilderness bill, and I appreciate his efforts then and now, and all of us as Americans owe him a great debt of gratitude for his efforts in obtaining Nevada's first national park.

I want to thank you very much for the privilege of being able to comment.

Senator BUMPERS. Thank you, Mr. McColm.

[The prepared statement of Mr. McColm follows:]

Statement of Merlin McColm in regard to S.1138 before the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests, U. S. Senate, Washington D. C., August 4, 1987.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Merlin McColm. I am a retired Certified Wildlife Biologist and now a small businessman residing in Elko, Nevada. During my professional career I worked for the U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. I have lived in Nevada for 35 years. I am here today speaking for myself to offer testimony concerning S.1138.

I have had the good fortune to be able to travel widely and have just returned from a tour of the Peoples Republic of China as a member of the Skoog Wildlife Management Delegation under the People to People Program. As a guest of the Chinese government we visited a number of China's nature reserves and exchanged information with Chinese scientists.

China, with its billion plus people, is on the verge of losing many of its natural ecosystems. In a country where the value of land is at an absolute premium, China is trying to protect and expand these natural systems. The Peoples Republic is trying to increase the total land area of their nature reserves, which are equivalent to our wilderness areas, from .7 percent of China's total land area to 3.0 percent. How much easier it would have been to have set aside adequate areas in the beginning as opposed to doing it now. We should not make the same mistake.

Except for primative hunter-gather types of societies all civilizations have seriously degraded their environment over time. History is replete with examples of societies that have collapsed because of depleted natural resources. It's the nature of civilized man to over-exploit his environment. Knowing this, we cannot be too careful with our few remaining unspoiled areas. History tells us that the great danger is not in preserving too much wilderness, but preserving too little.

Wilderness values are often difficult to measure in monetary terms when compared to consumtive uses. The value of undamaged watersheds, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics and scientific considerations are often obtuse. Two of the greatest values of wilderness is as a repository for native plant and animal communities and as a yardstick to monitor environmemtal change - natural or man caused.

Sometime back, while in Egypt, I was talking to a botanist concerning the restoration of man-made deserts along the upper Nile. These lands had been turned into deserts thousands of years ago. He complained to me, "How can we restore an ecosystem when we do not know what it consisted of?" This pretty much sums up the value of these two aspects of wilderness.

In our opponents arguments against wilderness I have never heard one word of concern for the future of our wildlife. Nevada is losing game habitat every day because of human population expansion. Even now Nevada has highly restrictive seasons on all big game species. The situation cannot get better with population growth. Many species of wildlife do best in a roadless wilderness situation. Rocky mountain goats, bighorn sheep and elk do best in this type of environment. Nevadans have always emphasized quality in their hunting. Wilderness guarantees this aspect.

Another aspect that opponents of wilderness do not like to talk about is the enormous environmental damage done by modern mineral exploration and open pit mining. In some cases there is the promise of restoration but desert ranges are extremely fragile and difficult to restore. In a land where wagon trails made 100 years ago are still visable, the prognosis for restoring Nevada's land to its former productivity is not good.

As a conservative Republican, I have not been pleased with Nevada's Republican Congressional Delegation's wilderness bills. They have been totally deficient. Vucanovich's Bill H. R. 708 does not even include the Ruby Mountains which is one of the most uniquely, spectacular, scenic and game rich areas in the State. The lack of concern our Republican Delegation has shown for protecting Nevada's outstanding wildlands is especially galling considering the conservation movement was started by a great American Republican, Theodore Roosevelt.

Of the Wilderness Bills that have been introduced into Congress this year, H. R. 2044, that includes 1.4 million acres in 19 roadless areas, is most acceptable to me. I am familiar with all of these areas. They are all uniquely different and outstanding.

I believe Senator Reid's bill S.1138, while a step in the right direction, is not comprehensive enough. It excludes several areas such as Toiyabe Crest, Currant Mountain, Elk~~o~~ Mountain, Santa Rosas, Schell Peaks and South Snake Range that should have wilderness status.

Least I sound unappreciative of the Senator's efforts, I want to assure him I am not. I recall that in the 99th Congress, Congressman Reid was the only member of Nevada's Congressional Delegation that fought for a strong Wilderness Bill. I appreciated his efforts then and now, and all Americans owe him a debt of gratitude for his efforts in obtaining Nevada's first National Park.

I would like to thank the distinguished members of this Senate Committee for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Thank you.

Merlin A. McColm
P. O. Box 1362
Elko, Nevada 89801

Senator **Bumpers**. Senator Hecht?

Senator **Hecht**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to say to all the people from Nevada who spent their own money and their own time to come here. It is certainly appreciated, which ever side you're on. And obviously, we do not have a united delegation.

But by your coming here, your testimony was most appreciated.

Senator **Bumpers**. Senator Reid.

Senator **Reid**. I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I know you had an important meeting that started at 12:00 o'clock. You have not complained. As I told you personally, not dealing with Nevada wilderness but on many other areas, I appreciate your leadership on the national scene.

And this is certainly an indication that you care not only about the national scene in its wide context, but also, you care about things that are taking place in Nevada.

I am grateful for your time here today.

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you, Senator Reid. And to this panel and all of those before, let me again express my appreciation to you.

Some of these statements were beautiful, poetic almost. And I understand both sides of the issue. Been through it my own State, as I pointed our earlier, so I understand the volatile nature of the feelings on these things.

And it is up to this committee, of course, to try to resolve those if at all possible. Naturally, we would like to see the Nevada delegation reach some kind of a compromise among them. It makes our job infinitely easier, and some times without it, impossible.

And I think almost everybody here with possibly some exceptions understand that Nevada will at some point have substantial additional wilderness areas in the State.

It seems to me that the sooner we do it, the better off we will all be. As I say, wilderness is a preservation of very important options.

And you know, 99 percent of all species that God ever created on this Earth are now extinct. Only 1 percent of all the species now exist.

And I read a column the other day by Richard Cohen. And he says, old orange band just died, fell over dead. Who is orange band, and where did he get such a name as that? Well, orange band was a sparrow on the endangered species list, and there was only one left, and he was residing at Disney World.

And at the ripe old age of 10 one day just fell over in his feeding bowl. And Richard Cohen went on to point out in that column, this point I just made, that 99 percent of all the species we have ever known are already extinct.

And hundreds and thousands of others will be extinct before most of us in this room die.

You know, sometimes people say, well, why do we worry about the snail darter. It is not the snail darter. The snail darter is really not the issue. The issue is, are we going to continue to foul our nests, as Chief Seattle promised us in 1855 that we were going to do if we did not change our ways. We have just about got it done.

132 years ago Chief Seattle said you are going to foul your nest until you cannot sleep in it. Franklin Pierce, the President of the

United States, did not have the foggiest notion of what he was talking about. Every direction he looked in, he could see nothing but wilderness areas. Nothing but all kinds of wildlife and game.

You and I both know in our more reflective moments, that we cannot go on creating the kind of garbage and filth and nuclear waste and everything else that we are doing in this country in the name of progress and have our species survive.

I do not want to head this thing off in a different direction, but I feel the same way about nuclear weapons. Anybody that believes that we can add 1,000 warheads a year to the 13,000 we have, and the Soviet Union add another 1,000 to the 13,000 they have, and man not be the most endangered species, just is not thinking rationally about it.

So these things, you see, I understand that there are two sides to every issue, and it is up to us to decide how much wilderness Nevada should have.

And we like to have 20 people from Nevada come here and give us their thoughts about it. I am sorry we could not hold this hearing in Nevada also, and perhaps we may even be able to do that, I do not know. I always like to hold hearings in the States that are affected.

People in a participatory democracy such as this feel much better about their government, even if they do not win, if they at least get a chance to have their say.

Thank you all again for the trouble you took to be here.

We will stand in recess until the next call.

[Whereupon, at 12:50 p.m., the hearing adjourned.]

APPENDIX

Additional Material Submitted for the Record

POLICY STATEMENT
REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT, USE AND MANAGEMENT OF DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS IN THE STATE OF NEVADA
ADOPTED BY
THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS, STATE OF NEVADA

Pursuant to NRS 501.105 which mandates the Commission to establish policies and adopt regulations necessary to the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitat in the State of Nevada, the Board of Wildlife Commissioners, during its regularly scheduled meeting on January 25, 1986, adopted the following position statement with respect to the establishment, use and management of designated wilderness areas on U. S. Forest Service lands in the State of Nevada.

1. The Board of Wildlife Commissioners supports the recommendations for wilderness of the U. S. Forest Service as documented in the 1985 draft forest plans for the Humboldt, Inyo, and Toiyabe national forests in addition to three areas identified in HB 3302 as amended. Those areas and approximate acreages are:

Area	Approximate Acreage
Arc Dome	94,000
Mt. Jefferson	31,000
Mt. Charleston	32,000
Mt. Rose	33,000
Boundary Peak	8,800
Table Mountain	113,000
Jarbidge Addition	23,440
Ruby Mountains	67,093
Wheeler Peak	60,151
Mt. Moriah	81,743
Grant Range	53,383
East Humboldts	27,000

2. The Nevada Department of Wildlife presently has primary wildlife management responsibilities on the above-noted designated wilderness areas. The Department shall maintain primary wildlife management responsibility in those areas including exercising management prerogatives for the continuation and/or establishment of hunting, fishing and trapping seasons. The Department shall continue to exercise its management responsibility in the above-noted designated wilderness areas in cooperation with the United States Forest Service and/or other land management agencies.

3. Livestock grazing should continue within the above-noted designated wilderness areas with the same uses, privileges and restrictions as set forth in the 1964 Wilderness Act and as further specified in House of Representatives Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs Reports 95-6204 and 95-1321.

4. Since acreages and boundaries in the above-noted designated wilderness areas are approximate and the United States Forest Service will be delineating exact boundaries after the passage of a Wilderness Bill, the Nevada Department of Wildlife should be afforded the opportunity to work with the U. S. Forest Service in making final boundary determinations which will take into consideration wildlife and associated management needs, including hunter access, where appropriate.

Working for the Nature of Tomorrow™

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, 1412 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-2266 (202) 797-6800
Office of the President

August 3, 1987

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Harry:

The National Wildlife Federation is pleased to join with our Nevada affiliate, the Nevada Wildlife Federation, Inc., in supporting the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act (S. 1138). It is our feeling that the citizens of Nevada and of the United States have been shortchanged by the relative absence of designated wilderness in Nevada's national forests. The designation of a representative sample of Nevada's wild lands as wilderness is long overdue. The diverse habitat found in the proposed areas supports a wide variety of species such as elk, deer, antelope, big horn sheep, mountain lions and trout, as well as diverse recreation opportunities. Wilderness designation will protect these habitats permanently and assure future generations an opportunity to enjoy these resources.

Nevada possesses spectacular resources in its desert lands and mountains; the passage of the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act (S. 1138) will be a lasting gift for the future. I commend you for your support for more wilderness in Nevada and hope the Senate will act in an expeditious manner to enact S. 1138.

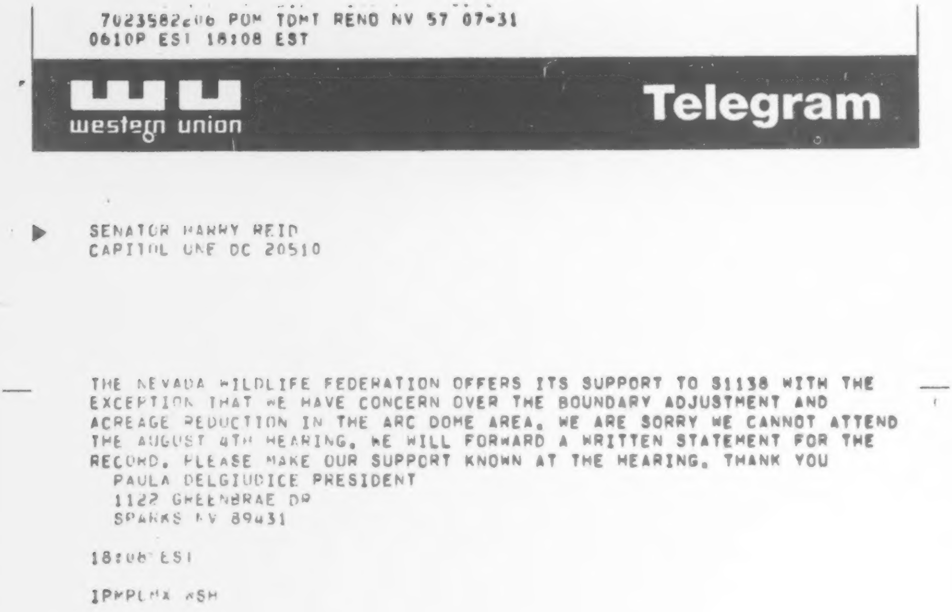
Sincerely,

Jay

JAY D. HAIR

JDH:mt

c: Paula J. Del Giudice, President, Nevada Wildlife Federation, Inc.
Fred Wright, NWF Affiliate Representative
Dale Gaskill, Regional Executive, National Wildlife Federation



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Telegram

SENATOR HARRY REID
CAPITOL UNF DC 20510

THE NEVADA WILDLIFE FEDERATION OFFERS ITS SUPPORT TO S1138 WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT WE HAVE CONCERN OVER THE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT AND ACREAGE REDUCTION IN THE ARC DOME AREA. WE ARE SORRY WE CANNOT ATTEND THE AUGUST 4TH HEARING. WE WILL FORWARD A WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD. PLEASE MAKE OUR SUPPORT KNOWN AT THE HEARING. THANK YOU

PAULA DELGIUDICE PRESIDENT
1122 GREENBRAE DR
SPARKS NV 89431

18:08 EST

IPMPLMX WSH

Peter A.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

April 29, 1986

Dear Member of Congress:

Tomorrow the House of Representatives is expected to consider H.R. 3302, a bill that will create over 592,000 acres of wilderness lands in the State of Nevada.

The National Rifle Association and the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America, together with the over 3,750,000 sportsmen and sportswomen we represent, support the concept of wilderness designation. Unfortunately, H.R. 3302 contains a section which creates the Great Basin National Park which will result in the closure of lands traditionally open to hunting and the benefits of state wildlife management. In addition, this unusual precedent of a park designation within a wilderness bill will affect a recent program sponsored by sportsmen which involve the reintroduction of Rocky Mountain big horn sheep. Should the park section become law, the sportsmen who helped establish these wildlife populations will not be able to enjoy them nor would there be any incentive for further reintroductions elsewhere. Furthermore, the State wildlife agency will no longer have management jurisdiction over the sheep or any other wildlife species in the area since that responsibility would then rest with the National Park Service.

For these reasons, we ask that you support an amendment to be offered by Congresswoman Vucanovich that will delete the Great Basin National Park and allow its acreage to remain in National Forest designation. We strongly believe that National Forest status is far more compatible and beneficial for the land and its traditional uses, then that of park status.

We urge you to vote in favor of the Vucanovich amendment.

Sincerely,

James Jay Baker

James Jay Baker
Deputy Director
Governmental Affairs
National Rifle Association
of America

Carol Porter

Carol Porter
Director
National Affairs
Wildlife Legislative Fund
of America

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

October 8, 1986

Honorable Harry Reid
U.S. House of Representatives
1530 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Reid:

The purpose of this correspondence is to set the record straight and once again clarify the NRA's opposition to H.R. 3302.

It has come to our attention, through various press reports directly quoting you, that the National Rifle Association's position is not clearly understood on H.R. 3302, your Nevada wilderness bill.

For the record, during our telephone conversation on Friday, October 3, 1986, I told you the NRA was opposed to your legislation for the following reason; H.R. 3302 would create a National Park that would result in the closure of lands traditionally open to hunting. As I said, the NRA traditionally supports the concept of a wilderness designation however, your bill, H.R. 3302, goes beyond that concept and would have closed down hunting within the park area.

For your convenience, I have enclosed the NRA's April 29, 1986 letter to you -- delivered during House consideration of H.R. 3302 -- opposing H.R. 3302, unless the objectionable provision was deleted.

Should you have any questions on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

James Jay Baker

James Jay Baker
Director
Governmental Affairs

Enclosure

**AMERICAN
MINING
CONGRESS**

FOUNDED 1897

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John A. Knebel
President

Statement of

American Mining Congress

on

Nevada Wilderness Legislation

before the

Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests

of the

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

U.S. Senate

August 4, 1987

The American Mining Congress (AMC) welcomes the opportunity to present its views and comments on legislation that would designate Nevada public lands as wilderness.

AMC is an industry association that encompasses (1) producers of most of America's metals, coal and industrial and agricultural minerals, (2) manufacturers of mining and mineral processing machinery equipment and supplies; and (3) engineering and consulting firms and financial institutions that serve the mining industry.

One-third of the nation's land area, approximately 750 million acres, is public land. Nearly two-thirds of the public lands are effectively foreclosed to mineral exploration and development. These lands contain valuable stores of mineral and nonmineral resources that are useful and important to the United States and its people. These resources are the keystone of the nation's economy and essential for production and delivery of our most basic needs--energy, food, water, shelter, and manufactured goods. Therefore, the mining industry is deeply concerned that public lands not be foreclosed to mineral exploration and development, but be kept open to responsible multiple-use management.

The United States has suffered a deteriorating position in global minerals trade and is increasingly vulnerable in its dependence on imports. One reason that the domestic minerals industry finds it difficult to compete in world markets is because of the continuing decrease in availability of federal lands for exploration and development. Although there may be a good reason in some instances to reserve certain public lands for an exclusive purpose, we believe that much of this land could and should serve multiple uses, including mining. In stating this, we are mindful that mining can only take place where deposits are found and the public lands offer as yet unexplored mineral potential.

President Reagan has called for the most productive use of all federal lands for mineral development. In his National Materials and Minerals Program Plan and Report to Congress in April 1982, the President recognized "the critical role of minerals to our economy, national defense, and standard of living" and "the need to keep the public's land open to appropriate mineral exploration and development." Furthermore, he expressed "deep concern regarding the increasing dependence of the United States and the free world upon foreign sources for strategic and critical minerals," and noted that, "an unknown amount of Federal land is removed from entry by obsolete or otherwise unnecessary withdrawal."

In the entire history of the nation, less than three-fourths of one percent of our lands has been disturbed for all types of mineral development, including coal, oil and gas development. Huge acreages are necessary for hardrock exploration, but development of a single major deposit will only occupy a small area. Despite these statistics, millions of acres of mineralized land are set aside as unavailable for exploration.

Nevada is singularly important to the mining industry. In recent years the emphasis of much of the mining industry's mineral exploration effort has been concentrated in Nevada. Several gold discoveries during the past decade and significant identified but unexplored mineralized areas account for Nevada's attraction. Not only the mining industry, but also the U.S. Bureau of Mines, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Forest Service have identified many of the areas recommended for wilderness in S.1138 as having moderate or high mineral potential.

It cannot be overemphasized how important Nevada is to the domestic minerals industry. The withdrawal of large, potentially mineralized areas in a state with the proven mineral potential of Nevada has severe immediate and long-term implications for the mining industry.

It is essential that legislation establishing systems of reserved public lands, such as the wilderness proposal before the committee, contain a provision expressly disclaiming implied reservations of federal water rights. AMC specifically opposes the concept of implied federal reserved water rights in withdrawn or reserved public land areas and supports a system of water rights based upon state water law.

If a wilderness reserved right would be found to exist after passage of a Nevada wilderness bill, it could preclude any future upstream development of water resources and could frustrate the exercise of any existing water rights within the designated wilderness areas. Thus, AMC opposes creation of additional wilderness areas until this matter can be resolved.

Mining is important to the rural counties of Nevada. The total payroll in many counties ranges from 30 to 80 percent mining related. Mining means jobs and since most of these counties do not have a broad economic base, mining offers potential for more jobs. Areas with mineral potential that are set aside as wilderness represent future job opportunities foregone.

AMC respectfully urges the committee to give very careful attention to the impacts of wilderness legislation on mining. Consult minerals experts, pay careful attention to the data already available and consider whether multiple use may be the best use for many of the areas suggested for wilderness. Effective, multiple-use management has the capability of adequately safeguarding the environment while in most cases, allowing for mineral development.

AMC suggests that the cumulative effects of continued direct and indirect removal of lands from mineral exploration and development are an immediate threat to the mining industry. Rural Nevada may feel the ill effects of such withdrawals first, but they will eventually negatively impact all of Nevada and the nation.

AMC is committed to fostering a domestic mining industry capable of fulfilling national requirements and minimizing the risks of undue dependence upon foreign sources of supply. We strongly believe that public lands can be managed for multiple use, including mining, to provide a balance of environmental responsibility and economic results. We urge the committee during its deliberations on this legislation to appreciate the need to provide for exploration, identification and development of mineral deposits within the framework of responsible multiple-use management.

TESTIMONY OF SHELLEY WADSWORTH
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE OF LINCOLN COUNTY

AUGUST 4. 1986
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I am here today to protest any further withdrawls of Nevada lands for Wilderness Areas. Wilderness sounds romantic and wonderful to those that purport to `care' about our futures, however, are we to believe that it is in our better interests to take lands out of muli-purpose use, steal livlihoods from families who have lived from this land for over 100 years and have no other means of support !

Are we to believe that we should cheerfully give up our way of life because a person in the East with no understanding of our lands or philosophy decides it would be `wonderful' to make that portion of the map a wilderness. What really is bad, is when the representatives that we elected to protect our rights sell us down the tubes and say that `Nevadans' want more wilderness, when all they actually seek is more personal political gain. You see, unfortunately, we people usually devastated by wilderness withdrawls and park withdrawls, don't have much money and we are small in number so our rights are trod upon to further political ambitions.

If I sound bitter, it is because I am, in fact I am outraged! When we sent certain representatives here, it was to preserve our American way of life not to be devastated by massive land grabs! Wilderness areas that exist now exist by virtue of the preservation by the users of the past. The people who hunt, fish, ranch and mine in the past have been the 'caretakers' of this now glorious property and have reverently cared for and nurtured it--this land which is so precious for their very existance. They are now called the devastators of these lands when if it weren't for their conservation efforts, there wouldn't be a wilderness preserved!

It is time that this country's governors really listen to the 'real' people and not the 'invented' masses that environmentalists create in their own minds.

I am an environmentalist--a non hysterical lover of Nevada, her citizens, mountains and her wildlife. I love this land and God didn't mean for the animals and trees to command the ones he gave intelligence. It is our role to protect and see that both co-habit in peace and in a manner that benefits all--not a few selfish granola munchers who want a new hangout. The new-wave environmentalists seem intent on a no-growth environment allowing other nations to advance while we are having to fight for our very lives internally! Their motives are questionable, to say the least. People should take a back seat to trees - birds - and all other non-thinking animals because the champions of these creatures over quality of human life say so?

In a time when the economy isn't at it's best why are environmentalists allowed to take away the livlihoods of industries that have been in existence for over 100 years? Did you ever think about the devastating blow to land values that taking away AUM's causes? For instance, when a ranch is sold it's value is figured by AUM's. Therefore, when these are taken away, not only do they lose the ability to raise that many head of cattle, they are also having the worth of their property devaluated to satisfy greedy self serving-wishes.

In our landlocked position, we find ourselves sometimes at seige by the federal government. military and state government. Even though over 98% of the land is federal, these entities still feel they should go after our minimal private lands! Rural Nevada faces sure extinction if those that arbitrarily take private land from our tax rolls, do not take into consideration the God given rights of the individual to own property in the United States.

One man one vote was passed by our lawmakers and proported to be the democratic way. However, when it comes to individual rights to own land we hear " you are only one man, we have to worry about the masses". Our experiences have been that in the good ol' U.S. of A. you can pay for and own land as long as the government doesn't want to take it away--in other words, we have no rights as individuals. The Democratic way seems to get redefined at the whim of our legislators.

Massive wilderness withdrawls, the Groom Mountain land grab and the new national park all affected RURAL Nevadans while a certain Nevada representative cheered them on and wished they could take more land while they were at it. Devastate even more ranchers because the `few' should sacrifice their 100 year old ranches for the good of all! That mentality is not in sync with the writers of our Constitution. Our forefathers would cringe at the thought that their country would someday forget the rights of the individual and they would decry the way individuals are tread upon because they lack numbers and more importantly political clout. Here again, tax revenues are taken away from the counties, yet they are asked to provide additional services to babysit the expected influx of tourists, backpackers and granola munchers. We are expected to sit still while livlihoods of ranchers are taken away and are also expected to quietly let jobs go because of very questionable tortoise habitat and because eastern influences cannot understand or fathom how many acres it takes to make a living on our beautiful lands.

`REAL` Nevadans love their lands, `REAL' Nevadans are happy with multipurpose uses of BLM lands and `REAL' people in Nevada don't wish the two industries that have sustained the state until now go under because a handful of red-shoelaced individuals want to bar John Q Public from the lands.

The lands are preserved now by the BLM and by virture of their isolated location. Saying it is for the future doesn't wash when you consider how many gold claims, how many ranchers that help feed the world and how many other precious or rare minerals and oil deposits just happen to end up as wilderness designation? This is an injustice to the free enterprise system and must be stopped before these saboteurs of America's economy succeed at their goal---a no growth country just open and waiting for take over by a stronger country not besetted by the constant badgering and interference of their economy by self called `environmentalists'.

Responsible government should take note of how these `environmentalists' earn their money...where does it come from? How is it that when they have no visable means of support, they are able to travel to Washington, to make large campaign donations to succeptible politicians and how they are able to escape prosecution when they are in the wrong.

Why do these `environmentatlist's' feel compelled to poison our children's minds with erroneous and misleading propaganda against ranching and mining and new industry? I refer to an article which appeared in `Ranger Rick' magazine in 1985 published by the the National Wildlife Federation. In this unamusing piece of propaganda, they talked about the terrors of a poor wild animal group of friends encounter at the hooves of the vicious cattle, the `devastated' rangeland and how starved the poor little guys were because the `mean `ol' cattle had eaten all the forage up! In my county, we were able to have this piece of malicious sabotage removed from the schools. How dare the teachers in a rural ranching and farming community (which I might add, hasn't suffered any by it's use) allow this to happen? Because Ranger Rick is used in MOST school systems, it is donated to many free, where this wholesale propaganda can go on unchecked. My point, what type of people are these? Where does their food come from anyway? Forget that, where does their information come from........Russia, with love?

In this (using the term loosely) `wildlife' publication, types of animals that were traversing the desert would find it impossible to find some forage---how many racoons, possums and bears do you see traveling on the Arizona Strip? There ARE flash floods on the Arizona Strip, not because `mean ol' cattle ate all the grass, but because Arizona is arrid and the rains cause flash floods in the washes and arroyos miles away. The article although amusing to those who know better, but wish to frighten the daylights out of the children in the West, is probably helping the large rift between the thinking of the westerner and the easterners, how can an easterner grow up thinking any different if this is the type of rubbish they read in school?

Please consider the depressed economies of rural America we need jobs, we want to be self sufficient and instead at every turn, it is being made more and more impossible to even operate our business'. Some questions to ask yourselves are, when you have allowed rural America to die -- who will feed you then? Who will clothe you then? Who will provide the natural materials you need to make the stuff of life you like to have available--and will you be to blame for the loss of recreation and hunting for future generations because you misunderstood what a wilderness areas really means?

We are begging for our very lives...an important part of Americana will be gone if you allow rural America to die and fall prey to the economic saboteurs who support more and more parks and wilderness.

How many of us can remember a life on the farm whether our family's or friends? How many of our children will be able to remember farm life? I predict that in a very short time the only remnents of real rural farm and ranch life will be in museums talking about how it was to be free --to be self sufficient--to own land and to be able to go to the mountains to picnic or camp or hike or even hunt--FREE! FREE according to Webster's new twentieth century dictionary, means " having, or existing under, a government that does not impose arbitrary restrictions.. having political liberty; as a free people..." Please let us not forget that we are all meant to be free and that if you take even one individual's rights away to benefit the masses you are no longer a free country, you have now turned into a Socialist Republic.

My name is Gordon Robertson and today I am representing the Nevada State Department of Wildlife through its membership in the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. On behalf of the Department of Wildlife and the International, I would like to thank you for scheduling this public hearing and for considering our comments on this important issue.

By law the Nevada Department of Wildlife is responsible for the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitat in Nevada, and my comments on wilderness are therefore related to the agency's future ability to effectively carry out these mandated responsibilities. It is important to note that the agency has not proposed any wilderness areas in Nevada but rather has reviewed and provided wildlife related input to potential wilderness areas proposed by others.

Basically, wilderness designation has both positive and negative impacts on various wildlife species and the agency's attendant ability to manage those species. Wilderness is simply a matter of trade-offs with respect to wildlife management, and the department has supported those proposed areas where, in their assessment, potential benefits outweigh adverse impacts and where management prerogatives are not seriously impaired. Much of the interpretation associated with wilderness management is based on experience with the Jarbidge Wilderness in Nevada and input from other state wildlife agencies, many of which have considerable experience in wilderness management. Some of the more important factors considered by the department in wilderness and wildlife management evaluations were:

1. Access - They reviewed the existing access situation for all proposed areas in relation to recreational opportunities and future management needs. Since very little access is being closed off in those areas which have been supported by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, they believe that protection from future development outweighs any future needs to expand existing access. It has also been their experience that some wildlife species favor the solitude afforded by wilderness protection.

2. Surveys - Most of the wildlife surveys in Nevada are conducted by aerial censusing, a management tool which is not precluded by the 1964 Wilderness Act. Their ability to conduct ground surveys which are utilized for some species would not be significantly diminished by wilderness designation in those areas which are supported.

3. Habitat Manipulation - Most habitat manipulation projects such as seedings, controlled burns, and chainings are precluded in wilderness areas. From a wildlife perspective, the department did not support any areas where these types of projects were deemed a necessity for current or future wildlife management objectives. Deer winter ranges and areas lacking adequate

water for wildlife did not received the support of the agency because of the potential need to conduct mechanical manipulations to enhance wildlife habitat.

4. Motorized Equipment - The agency does not anticipate the future need for using motorized equipment in those proposed wilderness areas supported by the department.

5. Transplants - Wilderness designation would preclude the introduction of exotic wildlife species and make the introduction of non-native wildlife more difficult. However, wilderness designation does not preclude the reintroduction of extirpated species into formerly occupied habitat. This issue should not present any significant future management problems.

In evaluating the above listed factors in addition to others associated with the Wilderness Act, the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Board of Wildlife Commissioners support those wilderness recommendations as presented in the forest plans for the Toiyabe, Humboldt and Inyo national forests in addition to Mount Rose, the East Humboldt Range, and Table Mountain. They believe that the designation of these areas totalling about 624,610 acres as wilderness would be of benefit to wildlife, wildlife habitat, and to the public who utilize these resources for consumptive and nonconsumptive purposes.

For the record and future reference purposes, I have also included a copy of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Policy Statement on the wilderness issue which was adopted during a regularly scheduled meeting on January 25, 1986.

On behalf of the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Board of Wildlife Commissioners, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to present our views on this important issue. Thank you.

FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS
P.O. Box 19777 Las Vegas, Nevada 89132 (702) 384-1890
P.O. Box 8096 Reno, Nevada 89507 (702) 322-2867

STATEMENT OF LOIS SAGEL, REPRESENTING FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

Before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks
On S. 1138

August 4, 1987

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I am Lois Sagel, a 30-year resident of Las Vegas, Nevada. I appear before you as Chair of a statewide coalition called Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and speak on its behalf. This is a coalition of organizations, businesses, and individuals that support the designation of 21 wild, scenic areas of our State's National Forest Lands as Wilderness.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to speak to you today on the importance we Nevadans place on the value of wilderness in our State. We are particularly appreciatve that you recognize the importance of Wilderness to Nevadans and have scheduled this hearing early in this 100th Congress. Senator Reid has introduced a responsible bill, as has Congressman Bilbray on the House side. We applaud their action and believe they are acting in the best interests of the people Nevada. We encourage Sen. Hecht to help preserve for the future our finest examples of unblemished wilderness, these 21 areas of pristine mountaintops, thereby releasing more than 2 million acres for other multiple use.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness originated when many Nevadans became alarmed at statements being made by public officials and mining and ranching interests that Nevadans didn't want wilderness. We were appalled that our Senators felt there were only four small areas in our National Forests worthy of being placed in the National Wilderness Preservation System. We came together as a group of organizations and individuals who care about the glorious scenic lands of our high mountain forests, who are willing to donate our funds, materials, time, and labor to provide public education and information on the concept of wilderness and its value to individuals and society, and who want our concern for Nevada's scenic lands to be heard by the legislators who will decide their fate.

It took several meetings in both northern and southern Nevada, where we agonized over the position we should adopt and finally came to a consensus on which 18 member oganziations voted unanimously to support the designation of wilderness of 21 unique roadless areas encompassing a little over 1.4 million acres of Nevada's national forest lands, or about 2% of Nevada's total land area, thus releasing over 2 million additional acres now under wilderness consideration by the U.S. Forest Service for other multiple uses and possible development.

Since we made our position public, we have gained many new members, and at this point we list 26 organizations that comprise close to 10 thousand Nevadans who enthusiastically support our position. What makes it most exciting is that this is not a coalition of environmental groups and environmentalists alone. Some of us are speaking out on a broad issue like this for the first time in our lives.

Among the organizational members are such diverse groups as the:

* **Kiwanis Club of Golden K,** a group of retired and semi-retired professional men in Las Vegas whose secretary told us has "18 voices united as a group in support of as much wilderness as we can get!"

***Evergreen Alliance,**a group of rural Nevadans concerned about the proposed BLM/Forest Service land swap and other environmental issues that affect southern Nevada and particularly the Mt. Charleston area where most of them live;

***Soroptimist International of Boulder City, Soroptimist International of Carson City, Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas, Soroptimist International of Henderson, Soroptimist International of Creative Las Vegans, Soroptimist International of Metropolitan Las Vegas, and Soroptimist International of Las Vegas Valley**-- All seven Clubs, with a collective membership of about 225, are part of the world's largest classified service organization for professional and executive business women;

***League of Women Voters of Nevada,** who you know as a group that promotes informed citizen participation in government, and which has 331 members within the State of Nevada.

***Elko County Conservation Association,** a group of Elko County citizens concerned with conservation issues in their area;

***Joint Study Committee on Environment**--in itself a coalition sponsored by the Women's Council of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce that provides information to a mailing list of about 150 concerned southern Nevadans on environmentally aesthetic solutions to flood control problems in their valley.

***Citizen Alert,** an organization concerned with environmental issues that sends its newsletter to over 2000 members and friends, over half of which are citizens of Nevada.

***Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association,Inc.,** a statewide affiliate of the National Public Lands Task Force, founded in 1958 and dedicated to preservation and management of Bureau of Land Management public lands;

***Southern Nevada Zoological Park,** which has the goal of establishing and maintaining a zoo in the Las Vegas area;

***Franciscan Center,** a religious organization dedicated to peace, justice and social services in the southern Nevada area;

***Virginia Range Wildlife Protection Association,** a rural group in Storey County consisting of property owners and developers of 37,000 acres of the Virginia Range who are concerned for protection of wildlife and the environment.

***Northern Nevada Native Plant Society,** about 450 people interested in Nevada's native plants -- in our wildflowers, in growing native plants, or in conserving threatened and endangered species.

***The Christian Wilderness Association,** is an organization of evangelical Christians who strongly believe that a concern for and the care of our natural environment are an integral part of the Christian principle of stewardship.

***Wild Horse Organized Assistance,** a northern Nevada group founded in 1971 by Velma Johnson, also known as Wild Horse Annie, which is concerned with land use plans, and the management and adoption of wild horses. They believe wild horses enhance wilderness, and that the agencies managing wilderness will develop new techniques to allow protection of these animals without degrading wilderness values;

***American Wilderness Alliance,** a national non-profit organization that is dedicated to the conservation of wilderness, wildlife habitat, and wild river resources;

***Red Rock Audubon Society** and **Lahonitan Audubon Society,** the southern and northern Nevada branches, respectively, of the national society of birdwatchers organized for educational, scientific, literary, and historical purposes, with a membership of about 1,000 Nevada residents concerned about the preservation of wildlife habitat that wilderness will provide.

***Toyaibe Chapter,** the **Great Basin Group,** and the **Las Vegas Group of the Sierra Club,** a national organization of 350,000 members who explore, enjoy, and work to preserve the nation's forests, waters, wildlife, and wilderness, with a statewide membership of more than 1600 members.

***Wilderness Society,** a non-profit membership organization devoted to preserving wilderness and wildlife, protecting America's forests, parks, rivers and shorelands, and fostering an American land ethic, with about 1500 members throughout the State of Nevada.

***Defenders of Wildlife,** a non-profit, national, educational organization dedicated to the preservation of all forms of wildlife, with about 400 members in Nevada.

Among our individual members we have students and senior citizens; lawyers; high school and university teachers; two former State senators; scientists and engineers; a plastic surgeon and a dentist; a nun; professionals with city, State, and Federal government; museum staff and a zoo director; a disabled carpenter; a writer and a variety of business people including publishing, consulting, accounting, travel and tours, real estate, secretarial service, photography, food store and restaurant owner. Many of us do not backpack on weekends, and we are more apt to walk our dog than hike the high country, but we enthusiastically support the preservation of 21 of the 113 roadless scenic areas eligible for wilderness designation in the precious national forests of our desert State.

In the appendix, I have briefly described the wilderness values of the areas that we believe are worthy of your serious consideration for wilderness designation and our position on the Senate and House bills with respect to these areas and acreages. We believe there are few, if any significant resource conflicts in these areas. Also attached is a list comparing the wilderness recommendations of the U.S. Forest Service and those of the House and Senate bills with the recommendations of our coalition, as well as a set of bar graphs illustrating the land area of western States and comparisons of designated and proposed wilderness in Nevada with that in other States.

Friends of Nevada Wildernes urges the Congress to designate as wilderness these 21 wild, scenic areas that rise high about

Nevada's deserts and thus release an additional 2 million acres within the 113 roadless areas now under wilderness consideration by the U.S. Forest Service.

Wilderness could be a major environmental and economic resource for Nevada. The mountain ranges of the basin and range country stand out like islands in the sky, each different and each a natural haven. HR 2044 (Darden) comes closest to protecting the state's major forest wilderness. We support it with the addition of the Sweetwaters and Pearl Peak. HR 2142 (Bilbray) is the largest wilderness proposal yet introduced by a member of the Nevada Congressional delegation. We applaud Congressman Bilbray for taking the lead on this issue and urge that his bill be strengthened by the addition of the Excelsiors, the Sweetwaters, the Toiyabe Crest, Elk Mountain, Pearl Peak, the Schell Peaks, and the South Snake Range. In addition, we feel that additional acreage needs to be included in most of his areas to better protect the integrity of the areas. Senator Reid is to be applauded for being the first Nevada Senator to introduce a responsible bill into Congress. However, his bill needs to be strengthened by the addition of the areas listed for Bilbray's as well as Currant Mountain and the Santa Rosas. Again, we seek greater acreage in the areas included in his bill. And, most importantly, it is vital that additional acreage be included in the Arc Dome proposal to protect the South Twin River. We are strongly opposed to HR 708 (Vucanovich), the worst RARE II bill ever introduced in Congress. It does not even begin to fairly represent Nevada's wilderness resource.

We believe that our position is reasonable in light of several considerations. Nevada has a great deal of public land that belongs to the American people, as you all know. Yet the public is denied access to a large portion of that land which has been reserved primarily for military bases, bombing and gunnery ranges, and the nuclear testing activities conducted by the Department of Energy. Even more land for these users has been withdrawn in recent years. The test range complex in southern Nevada alone has withdrawn 3.6 million acres. The designation of 1.4 million acres of wilderness will provide some balance in the way our State's public land is used and will assure us that some of our land will remain clean, peaceful, and pristine the way it was before man and modern technology arrived.

Nevada is in the southwest part of the Sunbelt where population growth is rapid and projected to increase at an accelerated pace in years to come. Las Vegas Valley, which was once "the meadows", now holds more than a half-million people and already population pressure has moved people into the farthest reaches of the Valley, to the lower levels of the Spring Mountain Range, and into the Pahrump and Amargosa valleys to the west and north. The Carson Valley is becoming part of the metropolitan area of Reno and Carson City, and retirement communities are springing up in the pinyon forests west of Wellington.

Our collective forefathers came out of wilderness as our nation was settled and the western expansion began. Our roots are there. It is a thrill to experience this scenic wild country in person or through pictures and to imagine how early settlers survived and prospered as they developed the society and way of life we are proud to call American today.

People need space, and Nevada has abundant space in the desert and on the hills and lower slopes of our mountain ranges. The mining industry already has 53 million acres open to mineral entry. We don't want all our available space to suffer the ravages of development, at least until such development is essential to our survival. By designating these 21 areas as wilderness, we are putting some of our valuable resources into a safe deposit box. We are preserving some forest, some water shed, some potential mineral sources, some glorious vistas, some pure air, some wildlife habitat, a diversity of plant and animal species and the gene pool they provide that could be survival insurance for future generations.

We are not locking them away where they will be forgotten. The safe deposit box can be opened, and the wilderness can be used in many ways while it is in safekeeping. Those who have grazing permits will still have and use their permits. Miners with valid claims can develop their claims and prospectors can prospect in a manner consistent with wilderness values. The wilderness can be used for hunting, fishing, hiking, photography, backpacking, birdwatching, horseback riding, picnicking, boating, swimming, camping, and as inspiration for the arts and for the soul -- as long as no mechanized transport is involved. These lands can provide field trips for students, natural laboratories for scientists, and classrooms for amateur naturalists, and their presence can provide economic growth for publishers; sellers of hunting, fishing, and camping equipment and supplies; and for those who make their living from tourism.

Nevadans like me want wilderness, and there are thousands of us represented in our Coalition. Only God can make the wilderness, where everything seems to work as it should, but only the Congress can designate which and how much of our God-given wild country can be preserved as wilderness and provide to posterity some options for its use.

We thank you for hearing our concerns and urge this 100th Congress to pass wilderness designation for Nevada's scenic national forests, protect the future of our State and our nation.

APPENDIX

to testimony by Lois Sagel representing
FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS
before the Subcommittee on Public Lands,
National Parks and Forests
on S. 1138
August 4, 1987

* **Alta Toquima** - a 45,000 acre roadless area of the Toiyabe National Forest in Nye County north of Tonopah where the massive summit of Mt. Jefferson crowns the Toquima Range at almost 12,000 feet, where John Muir confirmed the role of glaciers in shaping Great Basin mountains and where the U.S. Forest Service has designated a Research Natural Area for the study of alpine plants. We support S. 1138 for its inclusion of this area, but urge that an additional 6,000 acres be included.

* **Arc Dome** - 146,000 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest also in Nye County west of Mt. Jefferson, that ranchers whose cattle have grazed the green-mantled slopes for three-quarters of a century call the "island in the sky," and the source of the Reese and North and South Twin Rivers, which with 18 other creeks in the area provide dependable water to support mountain lion and bighorn sheep as well as cattle on their summer range. We strongly urge that 64,000 acres be added to S. 1138 in this area to protect the important South Twin River.

* **Boundary Peak** - 9,400 acres of the Nevada portion of Inyo National Forest in Esmeralda County with high granite summits and tundra-covered flats below the peaks. We support S. 1138 for its inclusion of this area.

* **Currant Mountain** (Duckwater) - 49,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in White Pine and Nye Counties southwest of Ely, an incredibly rugged and scenic area with white limestone cliffs along the crest of the White Pine range that gleam in the sun, few sources of water, but lush with pinyon pines just outside our proposed wilderness boundaries that the Duckwater Shoshones harvest each year. We support S. 1138's inclusion of Currant Mountain.

* **East Humboldts** - 30,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County southwest of Wells with some of the most dramatic alpine scenery in Nevada and which only in 1983 was provided public access to its trout streams, glacial lakes and spectacular ridges through a trail for foot and horse traffic into the southern end of the area. We support S. 1138 for its inclusion of this area.

* **Elk Mountain** - 12,600 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County north of Wells which is a popular area for big game and upland bird hunting and was recommended for wilderness designation by several Elko County sportsmen during the Congressional field trip in July 1985. We urge Senator Reid to include this area in his bill.

* **Excelsior Mountains** - 122,000 acres of the Toiyabe and Inyo National Forests of Mineral County west of Tonopah on the California State line overlooking the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area that are remarkably wild and pristine due to the lack of surface water and developable resources. We urge you to include this area in S. 1138.

* **Grant Range** - 60,000 acres in the Humboldt National Forest of Nye County southwest of Ely with over 200 species of wildflowers, more than a dozen of trees, mule deer and bighorn sheep, as well as areas visitors can enjoy at any level of physical involvement. We urge that an additional 20,000 acres be included to protect this superb area.

* **Jarbidge Additions** - 54,000 acres in the Humboldt National Forest of Elko County northwest of Wells which include the wild and overgrown drainages of Fox and Pine Creeks, an area unique in Nevada because it straddles the divide between the Great Basin and the Snake River drainage. We support S. 1138 for its inclusion of this area, and urge protection of an additional 5,000 acres.

* **Mt. Charleston** - 47,000 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest of the Spring Mountain Range in Clark County less than an hour's drive from Las Vegas that provide a startling contrast to the noise, lights, and summer heat of that city with its dense forests of ponderosa, bristlecone, and fir that provide the only habitat in the world for the Palmer chipmunk. Wilderness

designation in the high country of this range will complement the development for recreation and residential use planned and unfolding in the lower elevations surrounding it. We urge that an additional 4,000 acres be added to the area proposed for protection in S. 1138.

* **Mt. Moriah** - 98,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in White Pine County at the center of the eastern border of the State, home of a rare cutthroat trout and bighorn sheep, with sheer-walled gorges cutting into the mountain mass from the east. We support S. 1138 for its inclusion of this area, but urge that an additional 16,000 acres be included.

* **Mt. Rose** - 35,000 acres in the Carson Range of the Toiyabe National Forest in Washoe County near Reno, which are a blend of the Great Basin area and the high Sierras to the west, truly an urban wilderness being only minutes away from Nevada's second largest city. We support inclusion of an additional 9,000 acres in this area proposed for protection in S. 1138.

* **Pearl Peak** - 23,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County that afford breathtaking views of the surrounding valleys and contain the only bristlecone pine stand in the Ruby Mountains. We urge you include this beautiful area in S. 1138.

* **Quinn Canyon** - 95,000 acres in the Humboldt National Forest of Nye and Lincoln Counties that are a natural extension of the jumbled high country of the Grant Range immediately north of it, with high wilderness qualities that were recognized by the

Reagan administration in supporting its wilderness designation in November 1981. We are pleased that S. 1138 includes this area and urge you to consider its high wilderness qualities and need for protection in resolving the issue of Nevada's forest wilderness and hope that you will increase the acreage to come much closer to our proposal.

* **Ruby Mountains** - 143,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County, truly a crown jewel as their name implies. Heavily glaciated, with multifaceted, granite-like peaks soaring above lush green meadows and sparkling sapphire blue lakes, the Rubies attract people of all ages who come to camp, fish, horseback ride, hike, hunt, snowshoe, and cross-country ski. We support S. 1138 for its inclusion of this area, but urge that an additional 68,000 acres be added to protect the outstanding values of this area, where Boy Scouts from Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, and more distant cities go to experience wilderness.

* **Santa Rosa Mountains** - 80,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Humboldt County in which the nearly 10,000-foot crests loom above the Quinn and Paradise River Valleys of far north central Nevada and provide habitat for a large population of golden eagles. We urge you to include this home of eagles in S. 1138.

* **Schell Peaks** - 120,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in White Pine County of east central Nevada, where the peaks march above timberline for miles and the cliffs fall away

into broad basins whose clear streams support elk, mule deer, mountain lion, beaver, and trout among forests of aspen, Douglas and white fir, spruce, and limber and bristlecone pine. We strongly urge you to include this valuable area in S. 1138.

* **South Snake** (Mt. Wheeler) - The heart of this area was designated by the last Congress as Nevada's first national park. This Great Basin National Park includes the only active glacier in the entire Great Basin. We urge you to include the remaining 42,000 acres of this unit in the Humboldt National Forest in White Pine County southeast of the Schell Creek Range in S. 1138.

* **Sweetwater Mountains** - 12,260 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest of Lyon County, in a range that begins in California's Mono County and rises to the high alpine area of Mt. Patterson at 11,679 feet and contains an unusual ecosystem with abundant wildlife and several sensitive plant species. We urge you to include this unique area in S. 1138.

* **Table Mountain** - 125,000 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest of Nye County above Monitor Valley where the aspens are not in groves along narrow canyons but in forests, and where one can walk for a dozen miles above 10,000 feet with hardly any climbing. We support S. 1138 for its inclusion of this area, but again we urge greater acreage be protected.

* **Toiyabe Crest** - 79,000 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest of Lander and Nye Counties northwest of Arc Dome containing the "Wild Granites," a 4,000-foot granite wall carved

by wind and water into spectacular vertical spikes and columns, as well as habitat for a small herd of bighorn sheep and several streams that are home to Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, an endangered species. We urge you to add this area to S. 1138.

Attachments:

1) More detailed descriptions of areas recommended.

2) Table comparing Nevada wilderness recommendations (National Forests).

3) Bar graphs comparing Nevada with several western States.

4) Map showing locations of areas recommended.

ALTA TOQUIMA (MT. JEFFERSON) Toiyabe National Forest
Nye County

Size of Roadless Area:	68,570 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	31,000 acres
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	45,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	39,000 acres
S. 1138:	39,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	45,000 acres

The massive summit of Mount Jefferson is the crown of the Toquima Range. This isolated summit reaches almost 12,000 feet. The uniqueness of the area is reflected in the scientific interest the area has attracted. More than a century ago, John Muir tramped its cirque-notched slopes and confirmed the role of glaciers in shaping Great Basin mountains. More recently it was designated by the Forest Service as a Research Natural Area for the study of alpine plants.

In 1978 the largest Shoshone encampment in Nevada prehistory--Alta Toquima--was discovered by anthropologists just below the peak itself. It is the highest Native American habitation site known and has already shown that the natives hunted bighorn sheep and collected limber pine nuts as well as those of the pinyon pine.

* *

ARC DOME Toiyabe National Forest
Nye County

Size of Roadless Area:	227,115 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	100,700 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	94,400 acres
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	146,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	115,000 acres
S. 1138:	82,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	146,000 acres

The Toiyabe Range is the backbone of central Nevada. To the Shoshone Indians, these are the Biatoyavi or Big Mountains. To ranchers whose livelihood has been based for 3/4 of a century on grazing in the high mountains each summer, the green-mantled Toiyabes are the "island in the sky." They rise over six thousand feet above the desert valleys and, because of their 25-inch annual rainfall, have numerous trout streams lined with cottonwood, willow, aspen, birch and maple.

Wilderness adventurers can stand on rims of spectacular glacial cirques looking into aspen-filled basins a half-mile below. The Reese and North and South Twin Rivers, having their sources near the glaciated summits of Arc

Dome, provide dependable water to support wildlife including mountain lion and bighorn sheep. Eighteen other creeks are included in the proposed wilderness.

Fishing and hunting are excellent in this area, attracting recreationists from all parts of Nevada. Gentle trails winding along the creeks connect with the Toiyabe Crest Trail which follows the high country of the range.

The 227,115 acre roadless area here includes approximately 126,000 acres not considered in the RARE II study--they had been dealt with in an earlier Forest Service land use plan. The Forest Service has recommended a wilderness of fewer acres than they recommended in 1979 because certain areas have since been impacted by development proposals and no longer are such outstanding wilderness.

* * *

BOUNDARY PEAK

Inyo National Forest
Esmeralda County

Size of Roadless Area:	8,900 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	8,900 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	8,900 acres
H.R. 708:	8,900 acres
H.R. 2044:	23,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	10,000 acres
S. 1138:	9,400 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	9,400 acres

At the north end of the White Mountains, Boundary Peak rises to 13,145 feet. This is the highest point in Nevada. South across the California state line an immense granite crest sweeps out--the dry, cold wilderness of the nation's highest desert mountains, home to bighorn sheep and bristlecone pine.

The proposed Boundary Peak wilderness includes the Nevada portion, 8,900 acres, of this area. The California portion was left in further planning by the 1984 California Wilderness bill. From the high summits of this granitic range, alternate vistas of valleys and ranges recede toward the east, while looking west you feel as if you could reach out and touch the Sierra Crest. Winter brings dense snow to the northern part of the White Mountains, and these lingering snows prolong spring through August on the fragile, tundra-covered expanses of Pellasier Flats below the peaks.

* * *

L. Sagel - A10

CURRANT MOUNTAIN (DUCKWATER)

Humboldt National Forest
White Pine/Nye Counties

Size of Roadless Area:	55,998 acres (Duckwater RA)
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	49,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	36,000 acres
S. 1138:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	49,000 acres

The peak of the White Pine range, headwaters of the White River, is 11,500-foot Currant Mountain. The proposed wilderness also includes Duckwater Peak, 11,200 feet. This is an incredibly scenic area: the crest of the range is formed of tremendous white limestone cliffs with beautifully layered strata that gleam in the sun. The huge narrow spine of sheer white limestone goes on for mile after mile. Ancient bristlecone pines cling to every crack, and a small band of bighorn sheep lives in the security of a rock fortress that offers no trails, streams, lakes or even much horizontal ground to the few humans who ever venture there. Its wildlife and pristine vegetation make it a de facto ecological preserve. The western part of the range is part of the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Territory. Without a single mining claim, little livestock grazing or other use, it can be protected with virtually no real conflicts. Due to the lack of water and rugged terrain, the area demands determined explorers.

There are extensive stands of pinyon pine on the lower western slope of the area, and the Duckwater Shoshone harvest pine nuts here. Above about 9,000 feet elevation on north- and east-facing exposures are beautiful conifer forests of white fir, limber pine, bristlecone pine, and scattered ponderosa pines. Still higher is a subalpine bristlecone forest, mostly composed of young, vigorous trees quite unlike the popular image of the species. On exposed crests are older bristlecones, gnarled and sculpted by centuries of wind and weather. Currant bushes are--as the area's name implies--on the crest.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative for this area differs from the Forest Service roadless area boundary in three respects:

(1) Deletes lands on the west-central part of the roadless area. The roadless area extends down the alluvial fan to the Forest boundary on the west. We support a more manageable boundary along the base of the mountains. This also removes a number of livestock water developments and corrals from the area, and much of the area used by wild horses and by the Shoshone for pine nut gathering.

(2) Deletes the Corduroy Mt. Ridge. This area is off the main backbone of the range. It is heavily grazed, has many range developments, and ranchers drive in to the area to salt their cattle.

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(3) Adds back the "road" northeast of Currant Mountain. This "road" runs through a thick stand of white fir. The road was built to allow harvest of the firs for Christmas trees, but it is already overgrown and will quickly reforest. We strongly support protecting the fir forest.

* *

EAST HUMBOLDT RANGE

Humboldt National Forest
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area:	22,962 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	31,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	31,000 acres
S. 1138:	30,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	30,000 acres

The East Humboldts are a northern extension of the Ruby Mountains. While they contain some of the most dramatic alpine scenery in Nevada, a nearly complete lack of public access has prevented much recreation use in the past. In 1983 the Forest Service acquired a trail access for foot and horse traffic only into the south end of the area, near Stephens Creek.

Now visitors can enjoy fishing in a half dozen trout streams, camping by small glacial lakes, the chance to glimpse a mountain goat, rockclimbing on spectacular ridges, or visiting 11,306 foot Hole-in-the-Mountain Peak (and, of course, standing in the hole that pierces the peak). All this in a setting of heavily glaciated peaks, cliffs, talus slopes, and U-shaped canyons with groves of limber pines and aspens, and high meadows carpeted with wildflowers.

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ELK MOUNTAIN

Humboldt National Forest
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area:	12,575 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	12,600 acres
H.R. 2142:	-0-
S. 1138:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	12,600 acres

The Elk Mountain area lies approximately 65 miles north of Wells, Nevada adjacent to the Idaho-Nevada border and nine miles to the northeast of the Jarbidge Wilderness. It is within the Intermountain sagebrush/sagebrush steppe ecosystem, with elevations ranging from 6500 feet on the west to 8800 feet on the east. Its rolling steppes give way to aspen, mountain mahogany and alpine fir at the high elevations. It is a popular area for big game and upland game bird hunting, and was recommended for wilderness designation by several Elko County sportsmen during the July, 1985 Congressional field trip.

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EXCELSIOR MOUNTAINS — Toiyabe National Forest
Mineral County

Size of Roadless Area:	124,590 acres (Nv. portion only)
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	122,000 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	122,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	-0-
S. 1138:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	122,000 acres

From the vast rolling landscape of the proposed Excelsior Wilderness you look out at ranges twice as high--the White Mountains to the south and the Sierra Nevada to the west. The Excelsiors overlook the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, with Mono Lake at its center.

The Excelsior Range is not the high, alpine ridge country typical of many of the other Nevada wilderness proposals. It is a jumbled, complex landscape of branching ridges, rambling rock ledges, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and startling basins of evanescent lakes. The area supports a small antelope herd and provides key winter range for deer. It also supports a wild horse herd, on the Montgomery Pass wild horse and burro territory.

The Excelsiors have been little touched or explored by modern man. Archaeological evidence is the only sign that humans have ever traveled much of the region. The lack of surface water and developable resources have kept a remarkably large area wild and pristine. Today's visitor sees an untouched Great Basin environment: dense pinyon and juniper woodlands, many small dry lake basins, and native grasses and flowers undisturbed by livestock grazing.

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GRANT RANGE — Humboldt National Forest
Nye County

Size of Roadless Area:	101,030 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	98,904 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	53,383 acres
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	60,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	50,000 acres
S. 1138:	40,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	60,000 acres

L. Sagel - A13

Within the grandeur of cliff-girdled peaks, the Grant Range contains a natural storehouse of over 200 species of wildflowers, including a rare Nevada primrose, more than a dozen tree species, and both mule deer and bighorn sheep. Between Troy Canyon and Irwin Canyon, facing Railroad Valley, the ridge drops precipitously and displays a large limestone cave about 100 feet wide and 150 feet high, with a steeply sloping floor extending about 100 feet in from the entrance. To reach the cave one must climb 2,000 feet above the valley bottom. Inside are a few stalactites, stalagmites, and unusual flowering plants which get light from the late afternoon sun. Very old charcoal deposits are buried in the floor of the cave.

The visitor can enjoy this wilderness at any level of physical involvement. But the hiker who reaches the summit of 11298' Troy Peak has indeed met the tests of route finding and endurance, with rewards of grand vistas and the exquisite subtleties of rock shape and form.

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JARBIDGE WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

Humboldt National Forest
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area:	94,475 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	28,000 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	23,440 acres
H.R. 708:	20,000 acres
H.R. 2044:	54,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	49,000 acres
S. 1138:	49,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	54,000 acres

Surrounding Nevada's only designated wilderness area are proposed wilderness additions, including the wild and overgrown drainages of Fox and Pine Creeks, and the "pointed fir" country leading up to the peaks themselves. This area is unique in Nevada because it straddles the divide between the Great Basin province and the plateau and deep canyon country of the Snake River drainage.

The Jarbidge Wilderness itself contains the lofty heights of this beautiful area. The additions include the surrounding peaks, tablelands, canyons, and forests needed to complement the central peaks and protect wildlife habitats. Guides and outfitting businesses bring visitors up pack trails for hunting, trout fishing, and field study classes.

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L. Sagel - A14

MT. CHARLESTON (SPRING MOUNTAINS) Toiyabe National Forest
Clark County

Size of Roadless Area:	38,370 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	32,000 acres
H.R. 708:	32,000 acres
H.R. 2044:	47,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	43,000 acres
S. 1138:	43,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	47,000 acres

The Spring Mountain Range--fourth highest in the state--is less than an hour's drive northwest of Las Vegas. Here spectacular 11,918 foot Mt. Charleston towers a remarkable 10,000 feet above the sprawling city. The rise above the surrounding lands is greater than for any other mountain range in the state.

Mt. Charleston provides a startling contrast to and escape from the noise, lights, and oppressive summer heat of Las Vegas. Much of the range is densely covered with relict pleistocene forests of ponderosa and bristlecone pines, and firs--survivors of the wetter and colder climate Nevada had in the last ice age. The forests are interrupted by massive cliffs and a range crest that includes the only peaks above timberline in the southern Great Basin. This mountain island is home to 25 plant species and one mammal (the Palmer chipmunk) found nowhere else in the world.

Nearly all the areas suitable for non-wilderness recreation within this unit of the Toiyabe National Forest have already been developed for such uses, so that the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative offers little conflict with future recreational development. A master plan approved by Clark County for private lands on the mountain strongly controls development there. There has never been any conflict between preservation and mineral development here, either in the forest or on adjacent BLM lands.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative includes lands that were not counted in either the 1972 RARE I inventory unit (35,000 acres) or the "backcountry" unit identified in the 1976 Forest Service land use plan (40,400 acres). The Forest Service did not claim that the backcountry unit included all roadless lands--only those for which they recommended management essentially as wilderness in the land use plan. The Forest Service was asked by one of our member organizations, the Sierra Club, to inventory the other roadless areas in RARE II, but the request was denied.

The additional roadless lands in the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative include:

--Approximately 6 square miles having excellent wilderness qualities on the slopes north of Lee Canyon, and drainages and slopes on the north side of Kyle Canyon. Included in the latter are the outstanding pristine areas in and around Fletcher Canyon and Stanley B Springs.

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--Approximately 4 square miles of lower McFarland Canyon and the Mud Springs near the northeastern boundary of the forest, from Mack's Canyon to the abandoned Camp Bonanza Boy Scout use area.

--Approximately 6 1/2 square miles of roadless lands on 10,018 foot Harris Mountain, south of the Kyle Canyon private lands and the Rainbow summer home area. There have been occasional attempts to put television receiver antennas on this peak, but no mechanized equipment has been used here to date and the area still remains wild.

--Approximately 1 1/2 square miles in the Wallace Canyon drainage on the west slope, because of its pristine qualities. Flash flood hazards preclude any conflicting development here.

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MT. MORIAH

Humboldt National Forest
White Pine County

Size of Roadless Area:	96,901 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	96,601 acres (further planning)
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	81,743 acres
H.R. 708:	71,000 acres
H.R. 2044:	98,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	82,000 acres
S. 1138:	82,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	98,000 acres

Mt. Moriah is Nevada's 5th highest peak at 12,050 feet. Sheer-walled gorges cut into the mountain mass from the east; deeper in the range, streams course through narrow, twisted canyons. A rare cutthroat trout and bighorn sheep live in this outstanding wilderness. This outstanding wilderness in the northern Snake Range is one of the lushest areas in the Great Basin: the forests on north-facing slopes and in canyon recesses are sometimes so thick and green you imagine yourself in the Rockies.

Moriah, just across Sacramento Pass from Wheeler Peak, is much less known but just as beautiful. John Hart (author of Hiking the Great Basin) says of Moriah that, "on the rounded peaks, more than on any other Great Basin peak, you have the sensation not just of height but of deep remoteness, of immersion in wilderness. The North Snake is broad and primitive; the arid valley floors are a long way off and a long way down."

A unique geologic plateau covered with subalpine vegetation extends from Moriah's lofty base, the 10,500 foot Moriah Table covering three square miles. Huge ancient bristlecone and limber pine stands occur along the edge of its meadowy expanse. Large mule deer are often seen up here. So are cattle; the area is grazed. Archaeological sites, including caves utilized by Indians, pictographs, and lithic scatters, are also found.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative is larger than the Forest Service roadless area because we have included a small portion of Bureau of

Land Management land adjacent to the Forest. This is an integral part of the area and should be considered at the same time.

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MT. ROSE

Toiyabe National Forest
Washoe County

Size of Roadless Area: 19,838 acres (The 5,300 Hunter Creek roadless area and the 14,538 acre Carson Range roadless area are separated only by an unimproved jeep trail.)

Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	37,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	29,000 acres
S. 1138:	26,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	35,000 acres

Only a few minutes from the second largest city in Nevada lies the Mt. Rose proposed wilderness. This high snowfall area of the Carson Range is reminiscent of the Sierra Nevada to the west, but with a distinctly Great Basin flavor. Open meadow lands, several peaks over 10,000 feet, and ridges affording views as far as Mt. Shasta (200 miles to the northwest) are just a small part of the mountain experience. It is extremely popular with backpackers and hikers from the Reno area. In 1986 the Reno City Council endorsed this area for wilderness.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative is so much larger than the Forest Service roadless area acreages because the Forest Service has acquired additional undeveloped lands within the National Forest which were not included in their original acreage figures.

The Forest Service also divided the area into two along a jeep route between Big Meadows and Hunter Lake. This little-used track is in no way a road and should be closed. The Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposes leaving open the roads from the northwest corner of the area to Big Meadows and from Reno to Hunter Lake. Both are frequent destinations of local picnickers.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness also has left the entire Galena Creek face of Mount Rose out of the proposed wilderness. This area has a pending proposal for downhill ski development.

Most of the private lands on the west side of the area belong to Fibreboard, Inc., which would like to exchange them for other forest lands.

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L. Sagel - A17

PEARL PEAK

Humboldt National Forest
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area:	12,892 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	-0-
H.R. 2142:	-0-
S. 1138:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	23,000 acres

Pearl Peak lies about 45 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada in the southern portion of the Ruby Mountains. Elevations run from Pearl Peak itself at 10,847 feet to about 7,000 feet, offering spectacular views of the surrounding valleys, particularly that overlooking the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. A special attraction to the area is the only bristlecone pine stand in the Ruby Mountains, covering an area one mile wide and running north from Cass House Peak. There is hunting for mule deer and upland game birds. There may be some rock fences and hunting blinds on ridges in the area that are of archaeological significance. The area is also being considered for Research Natural Area designation.

* *

QUINN CANYON RANGE

Humboldt National Forest
Nye/Lincoln Counties

Size of Roadless Area:	100,661 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	89,000 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	95,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	27,000 acres
S. 1138:	27,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	95,000 acres

The Quinn Canyon Range proposed wilderness is an extension of the jumbled high country in the Grant Range immediately north. But here because volcanic rocks predominate rather than limestone, there is more surface water in canyon narrows and springs. If wilderness is in part "a blank spot on the map," you will find it here. The peaks and ridges, including the high point at 10,229 feet, are unnamed.

The Forest Service recommended an 89,000 acre Quinn Canyon Wilderness in 1979 because of the high wilderness qualities of the area, despite information showing possible minerals conflicts. The Reagan administration supported making this area wilderness in November, 1981. Our proposal deletes the northwest corner of the roadless area, thus eliminating the majority of the few mining claims which occur.

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In the heart of this rugged high country is summer deer range and a historical home for a herd of bighorn sheep. Our proposal also includes the scenic Hooper Canyon area in the north, with its limestone cliffs and gorge and its bristlecone pines; the crest of the range and most of the summer big game range around it; most of three major drainages from the crest to the west and a large part of one from the crest to the east, and a transition to the very different country of the southern part of the roadless area. All of these areas deserve wilderness designation.

* *

RUBY MOUNTAINS
(RUBY AND RUBY NORTH)

Humboldt National Forest
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area:	98,967 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	65,000 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	67,093 acres
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	143,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	90,000 acres
S. 1138:	75,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	143,000 acres

Twenty miles southeast of Elko are the Ruby Mountains. The name alone evokes the correct image: high, multi-faceted, granite-like peaks soaring above lush green meadows and sparkling sapphire-blue lakes.

Nowhere else in Nevada is there such a spectacular glacier-carved landscape, with hanging valleys, clusters of lakes, and snow-fed streams flowing down the U-shaped glacial valleys on the west side of the range. Because they are so heavily glaciated and have such abundant water, the Rubies represent, in many minds, the epitome of classic mountain wilderness.

As such, they attract people of all ages, who come to camp, fish, horseback ride, hike, hunt, snowshoe, and cross-country ski. And they are not disappointed. The Rubies are a recreationist's paradise. Among other users are Boy Scout groups from Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, and even further away.

* *

SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS

Humboldt National Forest
Humboldt County

Size of Roadless Area:	72,110 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	80,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	31,000 acres
S. 1138:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	80,000 acres

The Santa Rosa Mountains loom above the Quinn and Paradise River Valleys in far north central Nevada. They capture the water that brings life to a seemingly lifeless land. Golden eagles, perhaps more common here than anywhere else in Nevada, ride the crests of the nearly 10,000 foot range, ever searching for rising warm currents. Huge groves of aspen offer superb deer habitat, and the streams are filled with trout, including the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout (the state fish). The Santa Rosa crest trail offers access to lush meadows filled with wildflowers. Antelope are another important big game species, and mountain lion populations have increased.

Identified archaeological sites include rock shelters and chipping sites. A site containing bracken ferns has been suggested to be designated as a Research Natural Area.

* *

SCHELL PEAKS	Humboldt National Forest
(S. SCHELL)	White Pine County

Size of Roadless Area:	133,706 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	120,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	-0-
S. 1138:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	120,000 acres

The heights of the Schell Creek Range form the backbone of the Schell Creek Range proposed wilderness. The long and lofty range marches above timberline for miles reaching North Schell Peak at 11,883 feet. Rimrock, talus slopes, and cliffs fall away into broad basins where clear streams run. The unit's appearance is that of a mountain island surrounded by desert valleys. Elk, mule deer, mountain lion, beaver, and trout thrive in forests of quaking aspen, douglas and white fir, spruce, limber and bristlecone pine. Big game and upland gamebird hunting, as well as fishing, are important attractions. Cross-country skiing is also increasing.

Archaeological sites including petroglyphs and lithic scatters occur in the area. In 1982, the Labor-of-Love cave was discovered, containing the remains of a cave bear between 10,000 and 12,000 years old. Additional archaeological and paleological sites probably occur.

* *

L. Sagel - A20

SOUTH SNAKE RANGE
(WHEELER PK./HIGHLAND)

Humboldt National Forest
White Pine County

Size of Roadless Area:	144,498	acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	137,636	acres (further planning)
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	60,151	acres
H.R. 708:	-0-	
H.R. 2044:	42,000	acres
H.R. 2142:	-0-	
S. 1138:	-0-	
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	42,000	acres

At the very eastern boundary of Nevada, the massive majesty of the South Snake Range looms against the sunrise. Wheeler Peak is 13,063 feet in elevation--the second highest peak in Nevada. It stands 8,000 feet above the surrounding valleys. Below the peak, at the head of Lehman Creek, a tiny active glacier still chips away at the north face--the only active glacier in the entire Great Basin. Farther down the same valley is one of America's major cave systems, Lehman Caves.

But Wheeler Peak is only a small part of this area. South of Wheeler, Jeff Davis, Baker Peak, Pyramid Peak, Mt. Washington, and Lincoln Peak all tower above 11,500 feet with clear mountain lakes nestled deep within their shadows.

The well-watered east side of the range is cut by streams, each in canyons lined with willows, chokecherries, aspen, and the pungent aroma of sagebrush giving way to the sweet fragrance of wild rose. High atop crumbling limestone slopes grow bristlecone pines, twisted by centuries of buffeting winds and snow. The oldest tree ever dated was found here: it was 4,900 years old.

Senators Alan Bible and Howard Cannon proposed making this area into a National Park in the late 1950's, supported by the White Pine Chamber of Commerce. Approximately half of the southern Snake Range was designated a Scenic Area in 1958 to protect its outstanding scenic, geologic, and botanical values. The dream of a park finally became reality for 76,000 acres in 1986 with the formation of the Great Basin National Park, the first national park to be established in the conterminous United States in 15 years, the first ever for Nevada. Although the park encompasses many of the better-known features, it is vital that the balance of the proposed wilderness be preserved to safeguard the integrity of this unique area.

* *

July 27, 1987

SWEETWATER MOUNTAINS	Toiyabe National Forest Lyon County
Size of Roadless Area:	68,112 acres (12,260 in Nevada)
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	12,260 acres (further planning)
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	-0-
H.R. 2142:	-0-
S. 1138:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	12, 260 acres

The Sweetwater Mountains are a unique mountain range unattached to the Sierra Nevada. They begin in Mono County, California and continue north into Lyon County, Nevada, extending from the low, surrounding valleys at approximately 6,000 feet to the high alpine area of Mt. Patterson at 11,679 feet. The crest is distinctive because of the multi-colored, rocky peaks in the core area between Wheeler Peak and Sweetwater Canyon and is an unusual ecosystem with abundant wildlife and several sensitive plant species.

The California Wilderness Act of 1984 continued the further planning status established by Rare II and there is considerable support within California for wilderness designation of the California portion of these lands.

* *

TABLE MOUNTAIN	Toiyabe National Forest Nye County
Size of Roadless Area:	166,920 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	125,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	97,000 acres
S. 1138:	97,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	125,000 acres

Looking up from Monitor Valley, the long summit of Table Mountain dominates the eastern horizon. The aspens here are not in groves along narrow canyons: they are in forests. The mountain is a huge, green mesa built of welded-together volcanic ash from old eruptions. At the crest of the range is a table or plateau. You can walk (or cross-country ski) for a dozen miles above 10,000 feet with hardly any climbing.

The Table's park-like appearance gives it a fairyland type of appeal--a world above the world. Its awesome isolation and expanse are overwhelming. It offers aspen green in early summer and gold in fall, streams which descend slowly to the west, and abundant wildlife (including mule deer, mountain lion, and sage grouse). You'll also pass through mountain mahogany and small forests of limber pine. The plateau drops precipitously to the east. Several large creeks have abundant trout--rainbow, brook, and brown, and an elk herd introduced to the area in 1979 has increased five- to six-fold in number.

* *

TOIYABE CREST	Toiyabe National Forest Lander/Nye Counties
Size of Roadless Area:	108,320 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
H.R. 708:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	79,000 acres
H.R. 2142:	-0-
H.R. 2044:	-0-
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	79,000 acres

The 72 mile Toiyabe Crest Trail runs down the high spine of the Toiyabe Range. Two thirds of the trail is in this proposed wilderness, which runs from Kingston to Ophir Canyons. The trail winds its way around the highest peaks and crosses broad ridges with constantly changing views of the valleys and mountain ranges of central Nevada. This trail is unique in Great Basin mountain ranges, where there are few trails that are trails and almost none that are both reasonably good and very long--and it has even seen some maintenance in recent years.

A series of peaks just under 11,000 feet loom at the head of deep creek canyons--Washington, Broad, San Juan, Tierney, and Marysville Canyons, among others. Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, a federally listed endangered species, occurs in several of the streams in the canyons, and a small bighorn sheep herd uses the southern part of the area. On the steep east side of the range are the "Wild Granites"--a 4000 foot wall of granite carved by wind and water into spectacular vertical spikes and columns.

July 27, 1987

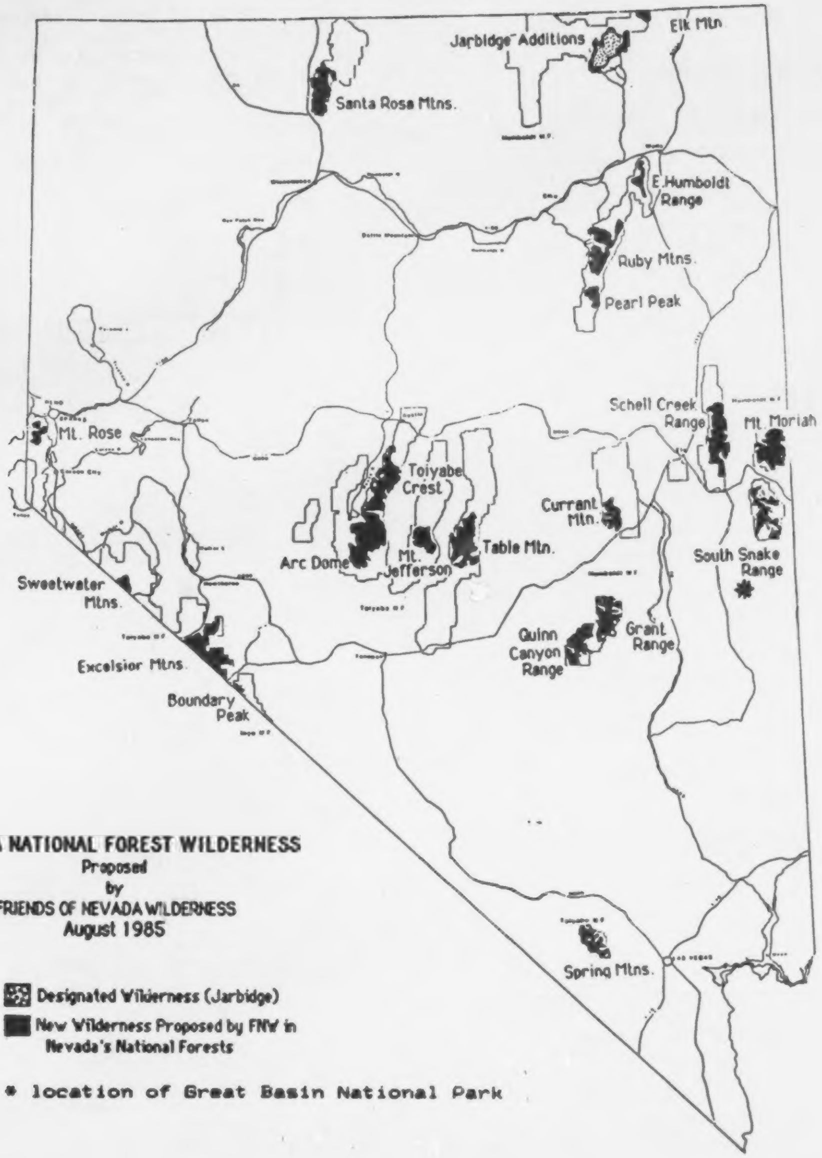
WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEVADA NATIONAL FORESTS

Roadless Area	Nevada County	Forest Service Proposals		HR708 Vucano-vich	HR2044 Darden	HR2142 Bilbray	S1138 Reid	FNW[a] Proposal May'87
		RARE II'79	June'85					
TOIYABE NF								
Alta Toquima (Mt. Jefferson)	Nye	0	31,000	0	45,000	39,000	39,000	45,000
Arc Dome	Nye	100,700	94,400	0	146,000	115,000	82,000	146,000
Excelsior	Mineral	122,000[b]	0	0	122,000	0	0	122,000[b]
Mt. Charleston (Spring Mountains)	Clark	0	32,000	32,000	47,000	43,000	43,000	47,000
Mt. Rose	Washoe	0	0	0	37,000	29,000	26,000	35,000
Sweetwater	Lyon	12,260[c]	0	0	0	0	0	12,260[b]
Table Mountain	Nye	0	0	0	125,000	97,000	97,000	125,000
Toiyabe Crest	Lander/Nye	0	0	0	79,000	0	0	79,000
HUMBOLDT NF								
Currant Mountain (Duckwater)	White Pine/ Nye	0	0	0	49,000	36,000	0	49,000
East Humboldts	Elko	0	0	0	31,000	31,000	30,000	30,000
Elk Mountain	Elko	0	0	0	12,600	0	0	12,600
Grant Range	Nye	98,904	53,383	0	60,000	50,000	40,000	60,000
Jarbidge Additions	Elko	28,000	23,400	20,000	54,000	49,000	49,000	54,000
Mt. Moriah	White Pine	96,601[c]	81,743[d]	71,000	98,000	82,000	82,000	98,000[d]
Pearl Peak	Elko	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,000
Quinn Canyon	Nye/Lincoln	89,000	0	0	95,000	27,000	27,000	95,000
Ruby Mountains (Ruby & North Ruby)	Elko	65,000	67,093	0	143,000	90,000	75,000	143,000[e]
Santa Rosa	Humboldt	0	0	0	80,000	31,000	0	80,000
Schell Peaks (South Schell)	White Pine	0	0	0	120,000	0	0	120,000
South Snake Range (Wheeler Pk/Highland)	White Pine	137,636[c]	60,151[f]	0	42,000	0	0	42,000[g]
INYO NF								
Boundary Peak	Esmeralda	8,900[b]	8,900[b]	8,900	23,000	10,000	9,400	9,400[b]
Proposed Wilderness Acres		512,504	452,070	131,900	1,408,600	729,000	599,400	1,427,260
Further Planning (RARE II)		246,497						
Number of Protected Areas		10	9	4	19	14	12	21

Natl. Forest Roadless Acres.......3,640,000
Natl. Forest Acres NOT Eligible...1,510,156
Natl. Forest Acres in Nevada......5,150,156
Nevada Land in Acres.............70,700,000

[a] Friends of Nevada Wilderness
[b] Nevada portion only; additional area in Inyo NF, CA
[c] Further planning area under RARE II
[d] Includes BLM acreage
[e] Ruby and North Ruby combined
[f] Wheeler Pk and Highland combined
[g] Acreage remaining after creation of Great Basin NP

May 27, 1987

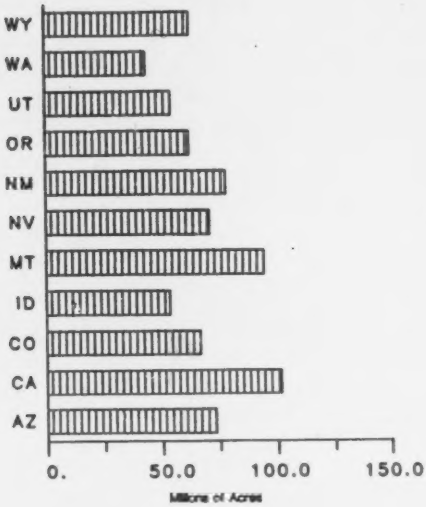


NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS
Proposed
by
FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS
August 1985

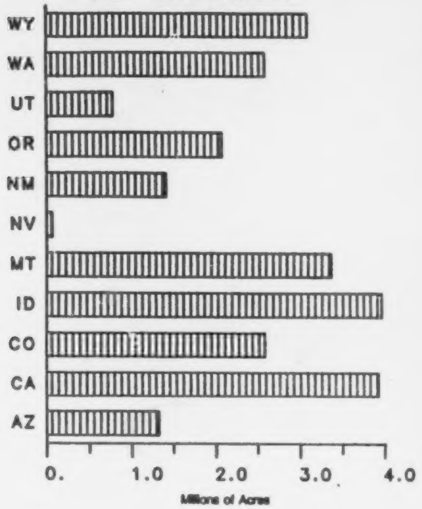
▨ Designated Wilderness (Jarbidge)

■ New Wilderness Proposed by FNW in Nevada's National Forests

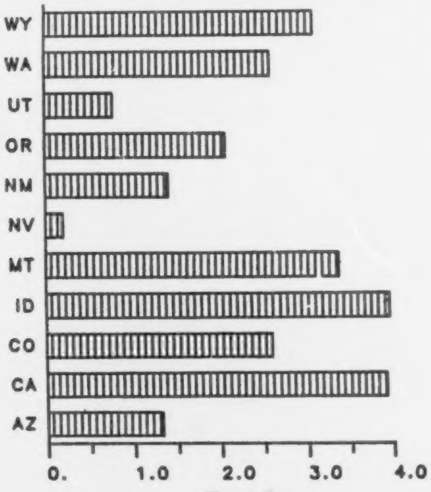
* location of Great Basin National Park



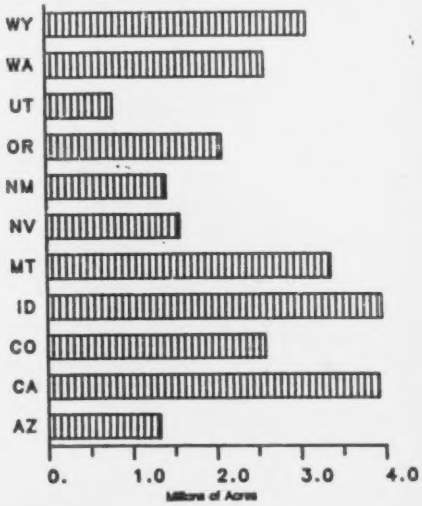
Land Area of Western States



Comparison of Nevada's Designated Wilderness to Designated Wilderness in Other Western States*



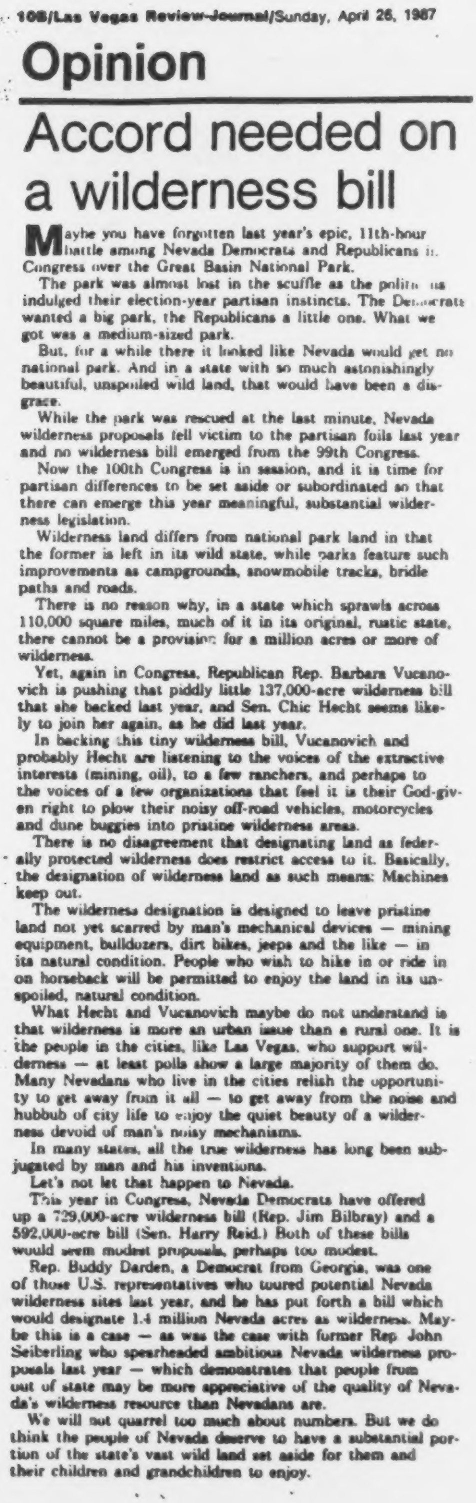
Comparison of Nevada's Designated Wilderness Plus Wilderness Proposed by S722 to Wilderness Designated in Other Western States*



Comparison of Nevada's Designated Wilderness Plus Areas Proposed by Friends of Nevada Wilderness to Designated Wilderness in Other States*

* Lands administered by the U. S. Forest Service only. Other states have additional wilderness areas administered by the National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management.

November 1985



10B/Las Vegas Review-Journal/Sunday, April 26, 1987

Opinion

Accord needed on a wilderness bill

Maybe you have forgotten last year's epic, 11th-hour battle among Nevada Democrats and Republicans in Congress over the Great Basin National Park.

The park was almost lost in the scuffle as the politicians indulged their election-year partisan instincts. The Democrats wanted a big park, the Republicans a little one. What we got was a medium-sized park.

But, for a while there it looked like Nevada would get no national park. And in a state with so much astonishingly beautiful, unspoiled wild land, that would have been a disgrace.

While the park was rescued at the last minute, Nevada wilderness proposals fell victim to the partisan foils last year and no wilderness bill emerged from the 99th Congress.

Now the 100th Congress is in session, and it is time for partisan differences to be set aside or subordinated so that there can emerge this year meaningful, substantial wilderness legislation.

Wilderness land differs from national park land in that the former is left in its wild state, while parks feature such improvements as campgrounds, snowmobile tracks, bridle paths and roads.

There is no reason why, in a state which sprawls across 110,000 square miles, much of it in its original, rustic state, there cannot be a provision for a million acres or more of wilderness.

Yet, again in Congress, Republican Rep. Barbara Vucanovich is pushing that piddly little 137,000-acre wilderness bill that she backed last year, and Sen. Chic Hecht seems likely to join her again, as he did last year.

In backing this tiny wilderness bill, Vucanovich and probably Hecht are listening to the voices of the extractive interests (mining, oil), to a few ranchers, and perhaps to the voices of a few organizations that feel it is their God-given right to plow their noisy off-road vehicles, motorcycles and dune buggies into pristine wilderness areas.

There is no disagreement that designating land as federally protected wilderness does restrict access to it. Basically, the designation of wilderness land as such means: Machines keep out.

The wilderness designation is designed to leave pristine land not yet scarred by man's mechanical devices — mining equipment, bulldozers, dirt bikes, jeeps and the like — in its natural condition. People who wish to hike in or ride in on horseback will be permitted to enjoy the land in its unspoiled, natural condition.

What Hecht and Vucanovich maybe do not understand is that wilderness is more an urban issue than a rural one. It is the people in the cities, like Las Vegas, who support wilderness — at least polls show a large majority of them do. Many Nevadans who live in the cities relish the opportunity to get away from it all — to get away from the noise and hubbub of city life to enjoy the quiet beauty of a wilderness devoid of man's noisy mechanisms.

In many states, all the true wilderness has long been subjugated by man and his inventions.

Let's not let that happen to Nevada.

This year in Congress, Nevada Democrats have offered up a 729,000-acre wilderness bill (Rep. Jim Bilbray) and a 592,000-acre bill (Sen. Harry Reid.) Both of these bills would seem modest proposals, perhaps too modest.

Rep. Buddy Darden, a Democrat from Georgia, was one of those U.S. representatives who toured potential Nevada wilderness sites last year, and he has put forth a bill which would designate 1.4 million Nevada acres as wilderness. Maybe this is a case — as was the case with former Rep. John Seiberling who spearheaded ambitious Nevada wilderness proposals last year — which demonstrates that people from out of state may be more appreciative of the quality of Nevada's wilderness resource than Nevadans are.

We will not quarrel too much about numbers. But we do think the people of Nevada deserve to have a substantial portion of the state's vast wild land set aside for them and their children and grandchildren to enjoy.

In the Matter of S. 1138

A Bill to Designate Certain Lands in the State
of Nevada as Wilderness, and for other purposes

Introduced by Senator Harry Reid (D-NV)
May 6 (legislative day, April 21), 1987
The 100th Congress - 1st Session

Referred to the Committee on Energy & Natural Resources

Testimony of Richard J. Mathias
as Representative of the Citizens of Jarbidge and
The Jarbidge Citizens For Multiple Use,
In Cooperation with
Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy,

Before the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
August 4, 1987
10:00 a.m. - Senate Dirksen 366

Mr. Chairman, distinguished Members of the Committee, I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear before this Committee of the United States Senate to participate in the public phase of the Senate's consideration of this legislation. I only regret that the issues I am about to discuss have not been adequately considered prior to the final drafting and subsequent introduction of this legislation.

A. The Voice of the Jarbidge Citizens: We Stand United Against This Bill

The citizens of the Jarbidge area will be seriously affected in many substantial and material ways. We hope that this hearing will provide enable us to illustrate why, generally, this legislation should be defeated, and why, specifically, section 2, paragraph 5, with respect to the "Jarbidge Wilderness Additions - Proposed," must be deleated from this bill.

I do not stand before you alone. Rather, I am honored to be present at the request of the citizens of Jarbidge and the Jarbidge Citizens for Multiple Use. These individuals, together with Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy, have grouped together with numerous other organizations whose views you will hear this morning in opposition to Senator Reid's bill.

B. Our Opposition to S. 1138: The Fundamental Issue

Our concerns are real. We are interested in preserving a unique and enduring heritage of the American west while simultaneously preserving the natural unspeakable beauty that has richly blessed the northeastern region of Nevada.

Unfortunately, those who square behind Senator Reid's legislation seem to harbor the belief that these two noble goals are incompatible. They fundamentally are not.

The proponents of this bill would have us believe that in order to preserve the pristine beauty of the Jarbidge area of the Humbolt National Forest we must bring in the federal government and lock the beauty behind some magical cloak now popularly (and erroneously) known as "Wilderness Preservation."

Nothing could be further from the truth. Senator Reid's "Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1987" will in fact do nothing to preserve and protect the beautiful wooded forests of the Jarbidge Humbolt.

Senator Reid's legislation is nothing more than another high-handed attempt by that gang in Washington who believes that federal intervention in every aspect of every problem is the answer to all challenges America faces.

We present to you today sound reasons of policy and administration of why this misguided philosophy of government cannot be applied to the challenges that lie ahead with respect to preserving the beauty and longevity of our national forests and wetlands.

It is our position that instead of adopting this legislation and locking off an additional 49,000 acres as additions to the Jarbidge Wilderness, as designated by Public Law Number 88-577, Congress should (a) defer to the governing bodies of the local jurisdictions with respect to this issue because only such local bodies are in a position to fully comprehend the substantial local impact of this decision and (b) reject altogether the concept that wilderness preservation legislation better protects our natural heritage and the beauty of the Jarbidge Humbolt.

The gang in Washington believes that a hands-off policy of abandoning these forests by enclosing them behind the shield of Wilderness preservation is superior to adopting aggressive, hands-on, local land management policies. This misguided idea lies at the cornerstone of Senator Reid's legislation.

The secret to preserving the wonders of nature is really no secret at all. The Congress must realize that natural land administration is best conceived and implemented at the local level, in cooperation with local residents whose desire to preserve the beauty and wholeness of the land is eternally fueled by the dedication that grows from spending a lifetime caring for the land and having the land take care of them.

To adopt Senator Reid's bill is to expand on another bad idea: the ill-conceived National Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C.A. §§ 1131-1136). This Act, as broadened by Senator Reid's proposal, is the result of Congress deciding that it should manage every acre of every state of our Union; and then when it comes time to follow-through and exercise this grabbed state and local authority, Congress washes its hand of the details. Congress just goes ahead and instead of designing effective land management programs, it abdicates this responsibility and locks up the land in wilderness.

With respect to Senator Reid's legislation, no one is better able to properly manage the land for multiple uses for future generations than the people of Nevada and their local representatives.

The problems of land management are being locked away for future generations to solve. This approach is irresponsible and this Committee must view Senator Reid's Nevada Wilderness Protecton Act in this context.

Every member of this Committee and every member of congress must ask him or her self this fundamental question: will America's beauty be neglected by federal refusal to aggressively manage our land resources by continuing the expansion of so-called "Wilderness Protection Areas," or will the Congress finally realize that the local governments and people are in the best position to aggressively preserve the natural beauty of our land for multiple use.

This is the fundamental issue before this Committee today. The purpose of my testimony is to apply this core question of policy to Senator Reid's current bill. Specifically, I focus on § 2(5) with respect to the "Jarbidge Wilderness Additions - Proposed."

This particular provision of the bill, if adopted, will significantly affect the way of life of hundreds of people in and around the Jarbidge area while forever altering the future of their children.

C. The Reach of Senator Reid's Bill: A Personal Perspective

I view this issue in a manner sharply distinct from the great distance three thousand miles places between this Congress and the Jarbidge area in which I was raised. For years the city of Jarbidge has been my home. Senator Reid proposes that a substantial portion of this region, which formed the basis of my childhood upbringing be taken out of the public domain.

While my values and views of the American tradition have been molded through the window of the Jarbidge Humbolt, there are numerous others who were born there 60 to 70 years ago. These are the type of western Jarbidge natives who told me on numerous occasions, about their childhood - about their grandparents and the ways of the west that Senator Reid's bill will forever hide under the cloak of "Wilderness Protection."

I have attached to my testimony a map of the proposed additions to the Jarbidge Wilderness. Further, I have divided this 49,000 acre proposed addition into Areas 1 through 3. If you examine Area 2, you will note the city of Jarbidge just to the North of the highest point where the addition would reach through the Bonanza Gulch area. This gulch is just about 4 miles outside of Jarbidge. Senator Reid's bill would carve out a massive chunk of the most beautiful campgrounds and hiking trails in the Jarbidge range.

These areas - Fox Creek; Pine Creek; Coon Creek; Snowslide Gulch; and the Matterhorn Plateau - would all become isolated except by foot. To me, this change would be chilling. To those who don't have the energy and strength I do at the age of 23, the vast majority of the residents of and visitors to Jarbidge, Senator Reid's bill means that they will never again see the beautiful areas of the Jarbidge range in which they were raised.

When I was 12 years old I joined my family on a hiking voyage through the Matterhorn Plateau and ultimately to the Matterhorn Summit. This two-day trip was a great eye-opening view of the vast beauty of the Jarbidge area. I will never forget that trip - and I hope to be able to make it again. Senator Reid's bill, however, will make such a future goal highly unlikely.

Since Area 2 ([illegible] the attached map) would require that the Snowslide Gulch Road remain closed to all vehicular traffic (the volume of which might reach 5 jeeps or motorcycles per week on a busy week) and thus an addition 3 or 4 miles would be added to such a trip. To most hikers and hunters, such a change would make it impossible to make the trip.

To the handicapped and elderly whose ability to maintain their livelihood in their Jarbidge homeland has depended on this road, Senator Reid's bill would spell certain death to any hope of ever seeing the land of their childhood.

Because this Committee is not able to visit these areas today, I have taken the opportunity of attaching to my testimony relevant extracts of a recently drafted book on the Jarbidge area. This book, I'd Rather be in Jarbidge, was written by Donald E. Mathias, my father, and is currently in pre-publication phase. The author of this book has been a student of the Jarbidge and Ruby Mountain areas for over 25 years. I hereby request that unanimous consent be granted for admission of these extracts be entered and included in the official published record of this hearing.

I urge each and every one of the members of this committee to read these excerpts. For the first time in recent memory, someone has put in writing the real physical experiences of the camper, hiker, fisherman, and hunter. In stark and gripping detail these pages reflect what it is like to camp and hike through the western high grounds which would be closed by this legislation. Furthermore, these pages reflect with touching clarity the natural beauty of the Jarbidge Campground; Pavlak Campground; Bluster Campground; Pine Creek Campground; Fox Creek Campground; and Mexican Campground. All of these and numerous other unofficial campgrounds would be closed to everyone except those with the youth and energy to walk to them - and carry on their backs all they will need to stay for a few days or more.

In addition, Chapter 6 of this book speaks in glowing imagery of the world seen by those who hunt and hike through Bear Creek; the Copper Mountain areas; the Matterhorn; Mary's River; Emerald Lake; and Snowslide Gulch. As you can see on the attached map, many of these areas were included in the original Wilderness Act. Unfortunately, if Senator Reid's plan is approved, the areas in the original wilderness would be entirely impossible to reach - unless one is prepared for a week on the trail.

More than I or anyone else could say to this committee, the attached excerpts provide a personal and touching view of the world that would be lost if Senator Reid has his way.

D. Conclusion: Let's Reject S. 1138 & Commence an Enlightened Policy of Aggressive Land Management for Multiple Uses

This committee must lead the way to productive management of these beautiful lands. The people of the Jarbidge region are the ones to achieve this goal by being permitted to manage and provide the upkeep of these lands.

We cannot achieve this with Senator Reid's legislation.

The citizens of Jarbidge and the Jarbidge Citizens for Multiple Use, together with Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy, join with numerous local and state officials of the state of Nevada and others, in urging this committee to pass unfavorably on this legislation.

We can no longer abdicate our duty to aggressively manage the land - not lock it up where resources needed to preserve nature's beauty will be closed out of the Jarbidge area.

In this testimony I have attempted to illustrate some of the broad and specific issues that underscore our opposition to this legislation. However, there are other statements and comments made by other residents of Jarbidge who have testified and written letters in support of aggressively preserving the Jarbidge area for multiple uses. In order to ensure that these views are adequately reflected, I hereby request that unanimous consent be granted for inclusion into the formal record of this hearing of the attached Affidavit by the Citizens of Jarbidge; Statement of Organization and Purposes of the Jarbidge Citizens for Multiple Use; Testimony of Col. Philip E. Joyal, USAF (ret.), at Nevada Wilderness Hearing Conducted by Senator Chic Hecht, February 14, 1986, Las Vegas, NV (emphasizing why it is essential that, minimally, that portion of the proposed Jarbidge Wilderness Addition identified on the attached map as Area 2, be exluded from this legislation); Statement of Roberta Skelton, January 31, 1986 (emphasizing the impact on Jarbidge residence of Senator Reid's proposed additions to the Jarbidge Wilderness); and Resolution of Jarbidge Citizens, dated July 27, 1986.

On behalf of the Jarbidge citizens, I wish to extend to this Committee my appreciation for allowing me this opportunity to represent to the Congress their views and my views on this legislation.

We pray that at long last this Congress will accept the responsibility of aggressive land management for multiple uses for our future generations. This means permitting local officials, like those before this committee today, and local residents of Nevada, to decide how best to preserve the natural beauty and heritage that groomed them and the American west.

Senator Reid's Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1987 will achieve nothing but the loss of these beautiful forests. Passage of this bill will perpetuate Congress' continued abdication of its self-assumed powers over the future of our local forests and natural land resources.

Respectfully submitted,

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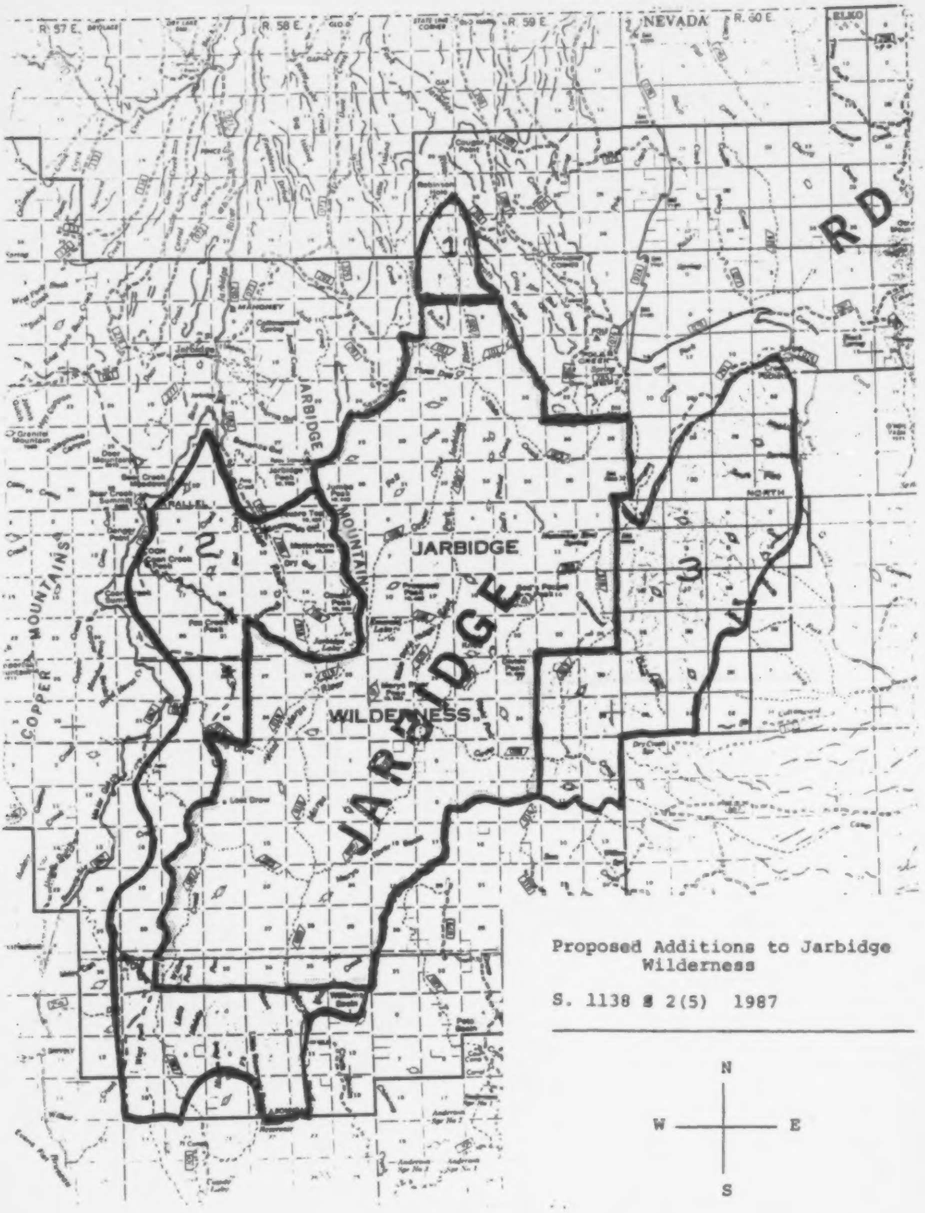

Proposed Additions to Jarbidge Wilderness

S. 1138 § 2(5) 1987

I'D RATHER BE IN JARBIDGE

A Visitor's Guide to Jarbidge, Nevada
The Town That Time Forgot

by

Donald E. Mathias

(This pre-publication copy is an
unedited draft presented to the United States
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
for Inclusion in the Record of the Committee
Hearings on S. 1138 Conducted in Washington, D.C. on
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CHAPTER THREE

FISHING IN THE JARBIDGE AREA

The vast majority of people who visit Nevada would never dream of fishing in this desert state. There are, however, some excellent fishing streams and lakes in Nevada. Fortunately for Jarbidge area visitors, they will find three of the state's best fishing streams and one outstanding reservior readily available to them.

The Jarbidge River runs right through the town of Jarbidge (that's where the stream got its name), and it offers fine angling from late June until September.. The East Fork of the Jarbidge River lies just north and east of the village. Finally, the Bruneau River is only a few short miles west of the town.

In each of these streams, rainbow trout is the primary species taken. Once in a while, a Dolly Varden of surprisingly large size is captured. In fact, the Nevada record fish of this species was caught in July, 1985, in a small creek about six miles south of Jarbidge. The record fish was 23 1/2 inches long and weighed 4 1/2 pounds!

In addition to the streams, there are a few lakes and reservoirs nearby that can provide outstanding opportunities for those who prefer fishing in still waters. Among these bodies of water are Wild Horse Reservoir, Cedar Creek Reservoir (known locally as Roseworth Reservoir), Emerald Lake, and numerous beaver ponds that can be found along small streams in some parts of the region. Emerald Lake is accessible only to hikers or backpackers, but most of the beaver ponds can be reached by those who travel in 4-WD vehicles.

FISHING THE STREAMS

Jarbidge River

In all fairness to the reader, I must say at the outset that I am an ardent fly fisherman. With me, its artificial flies or nothing! I also hold with the "Solunar Theory" of fishing which says, basically, that fishing is best when the moon and sun are exerting maximum gravitational "pull" at the place where you are fishing. In other words, fish bite most often at high tide. I watch the phase of the moon, and I go fishing when the moon is on or just past my geographic meridian. It has been my experience that fishing at any other time of day is relatively unproductive. Whether or not you subscribe to this theory or just like to go fishing, the Jarbidge River is the place to do it. The whole length of the stream offers good fishing opportunities, but some parts of the stream are better than others.

Many visitors, especially those who are camping, like to stay at Pine Creek Campground. They fish in the upper parts of the stream; south of the Elko Grade. The trout in this area are plentiful, but they are not very big; six or eight inches is usual. Once in a while, especially between the Pavlak Campground and the Bluster bridge, you can catch a big, old mossyback measuring 12 or 14 inches. That makes the whole effort worth while! The upper part of Jarbidge Canyon is especially scenic, and I know several people who fish in that area just so they can enjoy the serene beauty of the place. I also like the area for that reason and have spent many happy days there thrashing about in the stream enjoying the wildflowers, the animals, and the magnificient scenery (and catching my dinner at the same time).

It is probably true that more fish can be taken in the upper Jarbidge on bait (worms, salmon eggs, cheese, or even marshmallows) than on flies. So, if you want to feed the family, you might take the spinning rod rather than the fly pole. The kids also enjoy using bait of some kind; fly fishing does require a lot of practice if you want results.

Some really good fishing can be enjoyed wading the stream from the Pavlak Campground (Bonanza Gulch) northward to the bridge near the old Pavlak mill. This is about 300 yards of rough streambed and vertical banks. Once you start down the stream, you might as well stay with it--you can't get out. There are several nice holes along here that are inhabited by 10- to 12-inch specimens.

They grow to this size only because few people want to walk this part of the stream. Probably no more than a dozen people a year will go to the trouble.

Not much can be said for the quality of the fishing from the Pavlak mill on into town, although I have broken more than a few leaders on large fish in the waters just north of the mill in the places where the stream is not right beside the road.

Very little fishing is done inside the town limits. A few kids will fish there, but there is no reason for more serious adult fishermen to do so. Some pretty good fish have been taken near the bridge at the north end of town, but they are not numerous enough to bother with. The same can be said for that part of the stream which lies between the Barn Hotel and Cemetery Campground.

From Cemetery Campground northward to the landfill, fishing is much better. Several deep holes and cutbanks along here will yield fish of respectable size. Dark holes under big rocks or banks on the west side of the river are best, and none should be overlooked.

The area just south of Jack Creek is a sure bet for larger trout, but it is difficult to negotiate. About the only way to fish this part of the stream is to go into the river and wade the half-mile or so between the steep banks on the west side of the road.

Very good fishing can be had in the area just north of Deer Creek. From Deer Creek north to Freighter's Defeat, a distance of approximately three miles, you can take your limit just about any time you wish. The trout in this part of the stream grow to 12 inches or better, and the fast water makes the game more exciting.

From Freighter's Defeat northward to the Idaho line is really "trout unlimited"! The number of perfect fishing spots along this section of the river runs into the dozens! This may be due to several factors. First, this is the area of the Jarbidge Columns, huge spires of rock which have supplied many large boulders in the stream. In addition, the canyon wall on the west side of the stream is very high and steep. Thus, it shades the river during most of the afternoon and darkens the pools and cutbanks. Finally, the east bank of the river, next to the road, is quite steep and shrouded in heavy brush; not many anglers want to get into the river here.

The choice of fishing places in the Jarbidge River is left to you. As the feller sez, "Ya pays yer money, and ya takes yer choice!" I have fished in hundreds of streams and lakes in the United States and Western Canada. Except for one chain of lakes in British Columbia, this is the most enjoyable fishing I have ever found. The fish are not monsters, but they certainly are abundant. That is one of the main reasons why I am a "permanent" summer resident in Jarbidge. The nicest part of fishing in the Jarbidge River is the absence of other anglers. It is a rare occasion when I find even one other person fishing along the entire 17 miles of river from Idaho to Snowslide Gulch!

East Fork of the Jarbidge River

If you have an Idaho fishing license, you might want to try your luck in the East Fork and also that portion of the Jarbidge River that lies north of the Nevada-Idaho boundary.

The only part of the East Fork that is readily accessible extends from the confluence of the two streams to perhaps a mile east of Murphy Hot Springs. It is possible to reach higher parts of the East Fork by driving (with a 4-WD vehicle) on a dirt road into a place called Robinson Hole. The road into Robinson Hole turns off to the southeast right at the cattleguard on top of the Murphy Grade (east of the Hot Hole).

Some large fish have been taken from the East Fork. A Nevada state-record Dolly Varden was caught just above Robinson Hole a few years ago. The river from the Hot Springs to the junction with the Jarbidge offers excellent fishing, too. There are dozens of deep holes right along the road.

The lower Jarbidge also provides good fishing, especially from the state line to Buck Creek (the Diamond-A ranch road) and in the area immediately above and below the junction with the East Fork.

Bruneau River

The Bruneau River is one of the great trout streams of the Northwest, but very few people know it. The river offers a wide variety of fishing situations ranging from deep, rocky pools to wide, smooth curves with overhanging cutbanks. Although the Bruneau is located only a short distance west of Jarbidge, it is difficult to reach.

Both the Charleston-Jarbidge Road and the Gold Creek--Diamond-A Road mentioned in Chapter One pass right by the Bruneau River, but neither can be used as an access route to the best fishing places on the stream. The reason for this is that side roads which go up or down the stream are closed to all except ranch traffic. Sportsmen often complain about this, but the ranchers who lease the Bruneau Valley have experienced considerable difficulty with theft and vandalism in recent years; they have had equipment stolen or destroyed by hunters and fishermen who do not live in the area. One can hardly blame them for wanting to protect their property.

It is possible to reach the Bruneau without going up or down the valley. If you have a very strong 4-WD vehicle, you can go up Deer Creek Grade and then south and west across the high plain at the top. Following the power line to the west will finally bring you to the Bruneau. Of course, you must go back to Jarbidge by the same route.

Once in the valley of the Bruneau, you can go north or south and find great fishing. Toward the south, the stream rushes past large boulders, forming deep holes and white water. To the north, the valley widens and the river becomes smoother with broad, sweeping turns and lots of cutbanks.

If you fished the Jarbidge and thought the stream was deserted, consider the conditions on the Bruneau! The only people who ever fish this stream are persons like yourself who have made the tedious journey up Deer Creek Grade and down the power-line road. Yes, I suppose the ranchers fish in the stream occasionally, but they are usually too busy to take time off for fishing.

Most of the Bruneau anglers with whom I have stories like to fish around Coon Creek and Wickiup. These tributary streams are located very near the power-line road. I have found, however, that plenty of large trout can be taken from the cutbanks and sweeping turns that are found along the broad meadows to the north. Fishing in the Bruneau is real fun! The rainbows here are heavyweights, and they are full of fight! They come out of the shadows like speeding bullets and invariably clear the water in spectacular leaps! This is the kind of fishing most people only dream about!

FISHING THE LAKES

Wild Horse Reservoir

I have never fished in Wild Horse Reservoir, mostly because I don't give a damn for lake fishing and I don't like a lot of company. This widely acclaimed fishing place is visited by thousands each year, however, and has become one of the most popular "resort" areas in the northern part of the state.

Wild Horse is located 59 miles north of Elko on the way to Mountain City (Nevada Route 225). The reservoir was formed by damming the Owyhee River, primarily as a flood-control measure. Vacationers come to Wild Horse from near and far since the place has a well-deserved reputation for yielding very large rainbow trout. Because of the heavy traffic in recent years, due in no small measure to wide publicity (it has even been touted on Los Angeles television), Wild Horse has grown into a full-fledged tourist attraction. It boasts a good restaurant and bait shop, service station, parking for travel trailers and motorhomes, boat rental and launching facilities , and a nice campground.

If you are visiting in Jarbidge (as you are supposed to be if you are reading this book) and want to try your luck at Wild Horse, just hop in the old flivver and head downstream toward Idaho. Eleven miles north of Jarbidge, you will find the Diamond-A road. Turn left on this road (as if you had a choice) and follow it all the way to Route 225. At the highway, turn left and go approximately two miles to the place of business on the left side of the road. There you can find out all you need to know about fishing, camping, launching your boat, etc.

At Wild Horse, nearly everyone uses spinning equipment and lures or bait. Anglers seldom leave Wild Horse emptyhanded because the reservoir is heavily populated with big trout. Barring any unforeseen problems (like bad storms, sinking boat, flat tires on the way), you will probably return from Wild Horse with fond memories. One point about Wild Horse: there is little or no shade around the reservoir. Be sure to take a long-sleeved shirt and a broad-brimmed hat for protection from the blazing sun.

Cedar Creek Reservoir.

Cedar Creek (Roseworth) Reservoir lies in Idaho, about 55 miles north and east of Jarbidge on the road to Rogerson and Twin Falls. I have never fished there nor have I ever talked with anyone who has. On the other hand, I have seldom gone past the reservoir when it was devoid of fishermen. It seems to be very popular with local anglers.

CHAPTER FOUR

HUNTING IN THE JARBIDGE REGION

If you have read this much of this book, you know that the Jarbidge area occupies a very remote part of the country. The Jarbidge Range is a 100 miles from the nearest large town. For this reason you can expect to find among these peaks every kind of wild animal known to inhabit this part of the world.

Game species found in the area include mule deer, antelope, an occasional herd of elk, sagehens, chukars, and blue grouse. Predatory animals also are widespread. Coyotes, bobcats, and cougars hide in rocky dens and roam the valleys and ridges. The black bear was once a resident of the area but, with the introduction of cattle and sheep, it was either driven out or exterminated. You can be sure that Bear Creek (the source of Jarbidge drinking water) was not named for some imaginary animal. There is yet an occasional report of someone having seen a bear in the Jarbidge Range, but such reports are not taken seriously.

In addition to the animals already named, one can find dozens of species of songbirds and other friendly types. Jarbidge Canyon is, in fact, considered to be a birdwatcher's paradise. Grosbeaks, waxwings, orioles, flycatchers, wrens, robins, hummingbirds, jays, magpies--the list goes on and on. While these are of no direct interest to the hunter, they do make the area more interesting and pleasant. As much can be said of gophers, marmots, pikas, beavers, ground squirrels, and other furry critters.

And, yes, there are snakes! Most of them are harmless (rubber boas and garter snakes), but there are rattlesnakes as well! If you are walking north of town or in the valley of the Bruneau River, it is a good idea to be on the lookout for them.

MULE DEER

Mule deer are very common around Jarbidge. The high mountains and broad, grass-covered plains are ideal habitats for these grazers both summer and winter. For this reason, the Jarbidge area is the most popular deer-hunting region in the state.

Deer hunting here begins in late August with the opening of the bow season when dozens of archers in camouflage gear descend on the town and surrounding campgrounds. I find most bow hunters to be a different breed from rifle hunters. They seem less interested in filling out their tags and more interested in getting away from their regular way of life. I find them riding along the roads at dawn and dusk. The rest of the day is spent playing pool at one of the bars, drinking, and visiting with their friends in Jarbidge. They accomplish their goals; a few go home with a deer in the back of the truck, and all go home relaxed and happy.

Immediately following the bow season is the black-powder season. For several reasons, these hunters are dead serious about the business of getting a deer. In the first place, there are not many who can boast about naving downed a big buck with a muzzle-loading rifle. In addition, the season is short (about two weeks) and there is little time to waste. And finally, a muzzleloader does not have the range of ordinary guns, and the hunter must stalk his quarry carefully if he is to be certain of a killing shot. There are a few places in the area around Jarbidge that seem to be better for black-powder hunters. Most of the "Davey Crocketts" with whom I have spoken prowl the ridges near the Bluster Mine and Coon Creek Summit. Many others test the area around Deer Mountain and the valley of Deer Creek.

In mid-October the rifle hunters converge on the Jarbidge Range in large numbers and the hunting season really gets into high gear. I should say "low gear" since most of these guys arrive in 4-WD vehicles that can bash through deep snow and claw their way up the steepest slopes. These good-natured people have a lot of fun in Jarbidge--its almost like the Fourth of July without fireworks (shooting is prohibited within a half-mile of town).

Most rifle hunters patrol the roads in search of their quarry, but the ones who are most successful are those who leave their vehicles and stalk their prey on foot. It is best, however, not to go too far from civilization. There are many jobs that are easier than packing out a big four-pointer weighing 80 to 100 pounds (field dressed) while going down or up steep slopes in knee-deep snow!

The areas most hunted by the rifle carriers include the draws and the wooded places west of Deer Creek, the valley of the Bruneau, the region east and south of Copper Mountain, and the area near the Bluster Mine. Only a few hunt along Jenny and Jack Creeks or around Dave Creek farther east.

PRONGHORNED ANTELOPE

There is a large antelope refuge in southern Oregon and, of course, thousands of these nimble creatures inhabit the plains of Wyoming and northern Utah. It should come as no surprise, therefore, to find them in the Jarbidge area. It is really not correct to say they are "in the Jarbidge area". Actually, they are not any closer than the plains east of Murphy Hot Springs, Idaho. However, I have seen hundreds of them in every part of the high, open country from Contact to the East Fork of the Jarbidge River. I also have no doubt that antelope can be found on the Diamond-A Desert northwest of Jarbidge. The areas in which they seem to be most numerous are the open country north and east of Pole Creek Ranger Station and the gently sloping plain northwest of O'Neil Basin. These areas are east of Jarbidge and can be reached easily by roads shown on U.S.G.S. topographic maps.

Most antelope hunters know that these swiftly moving creatures can see for great distances. They are distrustful of strangers and very difficult to approach. While an antelope may run right alongside a vehicle during the summer months, it is almost impossible to get any closer than 300 or 400 yards after hunting season begins. Thus, an accurate and powerful weapon and a telescopic sight are needed for a successful antelope hunt. Good luck!

CHUKAR AND SAGEHENS

Over the years, chukars and sagehens have provided challenges for avid bird hunters in the Jarbidge area. While neither fowl is found in the Jarbidge Canyon above Deer Creek, they have been present in large numbers near the Idaho border. This has been especially true for the Asian import; sagehens set up housekeeping on the grass-covered plains northwest of Jarbidge and in the area east of Three Creek School in Idaho. They also may be seen on the high plains east of Pole Creek R.S.

The populations of both chukars and sagehens were stable for many years in the areas mentioned here. However, the summer of 1984 showed a marked decline in the number of both species. The wildlife experts of both Idaho and Nevada have publicly noted the decline. Idaho authorities, in fact, set severe bag limits on chukar in 1984, and Nevada cancelled the sagehen season entirely in 1985. The experts attribute the scarcity of the birds to the severe winter of 1983-84. While it is true that near-record snowfall visited the area during that winter, it is more likely that other factors have had an even greater effect on the bird population.

I observed in the summer of 1984 that there were many more predatory birds (eagles and hawks) soaring above the plains of Jarbidge than at any time during the previous 15 years. For example, I found two goshawks on Deer Mountain in 1969. Last year, I saw five. Until the summer of 1984, I had never seen these birds in the Elk Mountains, 20 miles to the east. A family of these predators now occupies that area. Predatory species are clearly on the increase.

All ground-nesting birds and small rodents are food for predatory birds. On three 60-mile round-trips to the Bruneau River through country that is ideal for gophers, ground squirrels, larks, and sagehens; I saw only one gopher, one sagehen, and a mere handful of larks. It is certain that these animals were not all winter killed--surely they were decimated by raptors.

Whatever the cause, chukars and sagehens are no longer abundant in the Jarbidge region. And it is likely that their numbers will not increase for several years; not until nature takes its course with the predatory birds. Thus, the hunters of upland game birds must look in other areas for their shooting enjoyment.

CHAPTER FIVE

JARBIDGE CAMPING

If you enjoy camping in wild and remote areas, Jarbidge is the place for you. Not only is the town "off the beaten path", but also it is located in a magnificient geographic region. The mountains in Jarbidge occupy an unusual, if not unique, position geographically; they are exactly on the boundary between the Basin and Range Province of Nevada and the Snake River Plains of Idaho. For this reason, an endless variety of camping situations is readily available.

CAMPING ON THE ISLANDS

Those who like waking up to a brilliant sunrise and cool breezes can really enjoy themselves while camping on the high plains near Jarbidge. The local people call these high areas "islands", so that's how I will refer to them. These islands are large pieces of the Snake River Plains that have been isolated by the downward cutting of the Jarbidge River and the East Fork. The erosional work done by these and other streams north and east of town is truly astonishing.

The volcanic rock which underlies the region is 3000 to 5000 feet thick. It was deposited all over this part of the world 12 million years ago when the land was still flat; in other words, long before the Jarbidge Range or the streams existed. The massive flows of lava extended north, east, west, and even far south into what is now Nevada. Much later, the mountains rose up as a result of movement along great cracks (faults) in the earth. The volcanic rocks, broken by these movements, were carried high up to form the peaks of the range.

Over millions and millions of years, small streams formed by the falling rains and melting snows etched the first little gullies into the uplifted plains. The canyons which today are so awe-inspiring were gouged out of the rock by torrents of water that melted from glaciers and heavy winter snows of the Ice Ages.

It is difficult to believe that water alone could have done this stupendous work. However, the quantity of water was enormous, and boulders and gravel are very effective scouring agents. Flood waters of this magnitude could easily have moved boulders as big as a pickup truck! When it is considered that this great erosional force was applied annually for nearly a million years, it is really not surprising that the canyons are so deep.'

The camper who visits the islands can enjoy breathtaking views of the Jarbidge and East Fork canyons, the Snake River Plains, and Jack Creek Crater. As mentioned earlier, Jack Creek Crater is not a "crater" but a bowl carved out of the mountaintop by ice. It is correctly called a "cirque". Such features are always found in the peaks of mountains that once had glaciers on them. They can be seen in every high mountain range from Ely, Nevada, northward (Wheeler Peak, the Rubies, the East Humboldts). Most of the high lakes in these ranges occupy glacial cirques.

Campers who wish to enjoy the clear mornings and grand vistas of camping on the islands, can approach the best spots by either of two routes. The following road descriptions are intended to help visitors decide on the route they prefer to take to the top of the Big Island.

The Hot Springs Approach

The Big Island, which is due south of Murphy Hot Springs, can be reached either from the Idaho side or from Jarbidge. The approach from Idaho is much easier, but it is not so exciting (dangerous might be a better word). To reach the Big Island from Murphy Hot Springs, simply drive into the Hot Springs "camp" and go to the south of the main building (the bar and restaurant). There you will find a bridge across the East Fork of the Jarbidge River. The road on the other side of the bridge goes east up the river for a short distance and then turns south up a little canyon that comes from the top of the island. Although the road is narrow and dusty, it is easily negotiated by any pickup truck or other high-clearance vehicle.

Once out of the canyon, the road continues southward up the gently sloping land for a couple of miles to the Idaho-Nevada boundary. It then makes a slight turn to the right as it comes alongside Dave Creek on the east. Almost exactly four and one-half miles south of the state line (just at some cabins on the left), is a more primitive road that turns toward the northwest. If you are adventurous and have a strong vehicle, you may find it interesting to explore this road. About a mile and one-quarter from the turnoff is the site of the old way station that served the earliest gold seekers and supply wagons. Some of the building materials might still be found there, but the station itself is gone.

If you are not so adventurous, continue southward on the main road to the top of the Big Island. You may wish to set up camp near the rim of Jack Creek Canyon. It is permissible to camp at any place you please in the National Forest or other public lands in this part of the country. Those of us who camp in the Jarbidge area just pick our spot and take out everything we bring in. We try to keep the land clean and beautiful to ensure that we can always use and enjoy it.

Jack Creek Road

As stated earlier, you can approach the Big Island from the Jarbidge side. The road from Jarbidge, however, definitely requires a strong four-wheel-drive vehicle! This is one of the worst roads in the Jarbidge area!

Coming north out of Jarbidge, you will see a road that goes northeast just past the power station (the big transformers in the wire fence). Engage the 4-WD right here; the road is steep for the first half-mile. It goes past an old cabin on the left and makes a sharp turn uphill along Moore's Gulch. It follows the tiny stream for a little way before crossing it and heading northwest toward the power line. The road then levels off for a mile or so, winding along the side of the hill above Mahoney Ranger Station, which can be seen in Urdahl Valley far below.

Once out of the aspen trees, the road comes to a fence and makes a right turn downhill. It descends very quickly into the valley of Jenny and Jack Creeks. Going down the hill is a bit tricky because of the platy rocks that cover the narrow track. Be careful!

At the bottom of the hill, the road goes through a lovely grass-covered, flower-strewn area beside Jenny Creek. It soon arrives at Jenny and Jack Creeks, both of which must be forded. The stream banks are sometimes steep (depending on spring runoff) and may have a drop-off of a foot or two on either side. It might even be necessary to place a few rocks along the banks of the streams in order the help the vehicle get down one side and up the other.

Visitors who are interested in rocks or relics might want to stop on the north side of Jack Creek and do some exploring. Just stop the vehicle (it won't interfere with traffic), get out and walk down the creek about 200 feet to a place under the power line. A high rock wall on the north consists mostly of agate, a semi-precious gemstone when it is of good quality. This location is known as "Irene's Agate Mine" after Irene Murphy, a long-time Jarbidge resident who collected agate here.

Perhaps an eighth of a mile farther downstream is the site of the Campbell homestead. This was once a stopping place on the old Jack Creek Road which followed the stream to its confluence with the Jarbidge River. If you care to follow the old tracks across the meadow and through the brush, you will find evidence of the former road. It is an interesting walk through a silent and beautiful little valley.

If you prefer not to stop at Jack Creek and instead go directly to the top of the Big Island, just follow the road to the east and north around a couple of small hills. This part of the road is rutted and treacherous! After rounding the top of the second hill, the road turns west and begins its final climb to the top of the Big Island. The road here becomes rocky, steep and narrow as it squirms through a small grove of mountain mahoganies. It gets very close to the edge of Jarbidge Canyon at this place before reaching the top of the grade.

Corky Prunty's Camp

Anyone who comes to the top of the Big Island in a 4-WD vehicle should take the opportunity to visit Corky Prunty's Camp. This rarely seen camp has been used for years by deer and cougar hunters. Beautiful and serene, it is located on Dave Creek at the northwest base of Sawmill Ridge. It is just outside the Jarbidge Wilderness, 66,000 acres' of unspoiled wild country about which more will be said later in this book.

To reach Prunty's Camp, drive east from the top of the Jack Creek Road (or go south as far as possible from Murphy's Hot Springs) to the eastern edge of the Big Island. There you will find a road that leads southward into a small valley at the bottom of which a fork in the road may be seen. Carefully drive down this steep, rocky road to the valley floor. Take the left-hand fork and follow it through the trees to Prunty's Camp. In case you were wondering about the other road (the right-hand fork), it leads to Jack Creek Crater but is no longer open to any kind of traffic.

In Prunty's Camp, you will find plenty of level space for the tent. A small stream runs through the camp, but the water is not fit to drink since cattle usually are found in the area; the land is leased by nearby ranchers. Also in the camp are a couple of small, pole corrals which are still used by hunters and pack strings.

Prunty's Camp is a "jumping off place" for hikers who like to visit the East Fork and its spectacular canyon and for backpackers who wish to explore the Jarbidge Wilderness. To satisfy the needs of both kinds of pedestrians, a trail leads off to the east from the camp. It fords Dave Creek, goes around the north end of Sawmill Ridge, and crosses Palomino Bench (another "island"). The trail then drops precipitously into the canyon of the East Fork. There it crosses the stream and finally comes out at Pole Creek Ranger Station about three very rough miles to the east. Another branch of the trail goes south up the East Fork into the Jarbidge Wilderness.

HIGH COUNTRY WEST OF JARBIDGE

Other exhilirating air and scenic views can be enjoyed in the high country west of Jarbidge. This region, unlike the Big Island, is not entirely flat. It is characterized by rolling hills and broad valleys that have been formed by small perennial streams. But like the Big Island, the country west of town can be reached by more than one road.

Deer Creek Grade Approach

The easiest and most exciting way to reach the high country west of Jarbidge is by way of Deer Creek Grade. As mentioned in Chapter One; this narrow, rocky track clings precariously to the west side of Jarbidge Canyon. It connects the canyon road with a Forest Service road on top of the plateau. There is only one way to negotiate Deer Creek Grade--drive slowly and carefully and hope nobody is coming down while you are going up, or vice versa. For most of its length, the road is wide enough for only one vehicle at a time.

Deer Creek Grade comes onto the Jarbidge Road at a point four miles north of town. Taking this road west, it crosses the Jarbidge River on what appears to be a rather "shaky" bridge. Not to worry--the bridge is quite sturdy. Once across the bridge, the road leads southwest up Deer Creek for about half a mile and then turns sharply towards the north and goes right along the side of the cliffs on the west side of Jarbidge Canyon. After bending around numerous blind corners beneath overhanging rocks; the road levels out, passes through a heavy growth of chokecherries, and emerges on top of the island. The climb up Deer Creek Grade may be a bit "scarey", but it offers breathtaking views of Jarbidge Canyon and the snow-capped peaks of the Jarbidge Range. It is quite a drive, and quite an experience!

The canyon of the Jarbidge River at this place is about 1200 feet deep! (See photo on p.58) That makes it one of the deepest canyons in the United States! The very existence of Deer Creek Grade, cut into the living rock of the canyon wall is an amazing feat of ingenuity and roadbuilding skill--and it was done by two brothers (identical twins) about whom many interesting stories have been told.

Just as Deer Creek Grade reaches the top of the canyon, it branches off to the left. The main road continues north towards the Diamond-A ranch, but the left branch leads south and west to the high country. The road climbs ever so gently up the slope of the lava plateau between Deer Creek and Corral Creek, traversing several miles of grassy meadows. In July and August, especially after a winter of heavy snowfall, these meadows are literally covered with wildflowers of every color and description. Sagehens, larks and mountain bluebirds inhabit the grasses and brush while eagles and hawks wheel overhead in the clear blue sky.

At the top of the ridge, the road meets a power line and turns right to descend into a wide valley. The valley has no name, but since a friend and I saw several elk there a few years ago, we privately call the place Elk Meadow. The west side of this little valley is covered with a pretty stand of quaking aspen. It is a nice place to camp if you have your own water supply.

The west side of this valley is rather steep, but you have a choice as to how you wish to go up it. The road forks in the valley floor; one branch following the power line, the other heading northwest up a more gentle slope. The power-line road is very steep, and it requires a strong vehicle. The other road can be negotiated by any pickup truck. If you elect to take the road to the northwest, you should not follow it any further than the top of the ridge. There you will see an ill-defined track that goes off to the left through the trees and brush. That is the one to take. Within about a quarter-mile, it joins the power-line road and goes west into Corral Creek.

One of the prettiest places in the entire Jarbidge region is located at the head of Corral Creek. The road from the east enters a little valley here and crosses Cow Creek, a tiny tributary of Corral Creek. Just at the fording place is a little flat spot that has been used for many years as a campsite. It is situated in a lovely stand of mature subalpine firs; those tall, dark-green conifers whose tops resemble church steeples. The air, fresh and clean, is heavy with the scent of the resinous trees. Columbines, monk's hoods and other moisture-loving flowers are common here. Although the water of Corral Creek is probably fit to drink, cattle are pastured here in the late summer months. For this reason, it is advisable to purify the water before using it. This can be done easily, of course, by boiling the water or adding halizone tablets. The setting, in any event, is idyllic. Tiny Corral Creek gurgles and giggles as it plays along its banks, happy to be in this beautiful place so far from civilization and so close to God.

While you are here, look at the trunks of the aspen trees. On them you can see the oldest Basque carvings in the Jarbidge region. The solitary men who tended their flocks here must have been pleased with their assigned task. Who among us would not enjoy a place as beautiful as this?

If you want to see more of this marvelous high country (and there is much more to see), continue west along the power-line road. It crosses Corral Creek within a hundred yards of the campsite and follows the creek for perhaps 200 yards more. It then turns northwest and rises to the top of the ridge between Corral Creek and Buck Creek.

At the top of the ridge, the road swings south and west, crossing the meadow to reach the power line. Then, following the power line westward, it passes more subalpine firs and goes across some rocky terrain to the head of Buck Creek. Because this road was built to provide access to the power line, it follows the wires downhill into the valley of the Bruneau River. But there is a mining road that turns off to the right and stays on the Buck Creek side of the mountains. This is the road to take if you wish to enjoy more of the high country.

Buck Creek, like all the other streams in this area, has its origins in gently sloping box canyons. Because this part of the region has been prospected and mined for 100 years or more, roads and tracks can be found all over the hillsides at the head of Buck Creek. There is also some mining equipment in the area, but it should not be disturbed. All of this region is held as mining claims by several people, and everything on this property belongs to them.

As you wander about in this area, you will notice some old mines. The natural inclination is to go into such places and explore the diggings. Before you enter any of these mines, consider the idea very carefully. Old mines can be extremely dangerous! Every year many people lose their lives poking around in old mines. If you insist on going inside these abandoned diggings, make sure nothing will go wrong. Take along a dependable flashlight or lantern. Tie yourself to a long, stout rope and leave a friend outside on the other end of the rope until you come back out. The most important rule of all is: Never go into an abandoned mine that has timbers along the walls or overhead! The shorings were installed originally because the ground was weak--it still is! The timbers are probably rotten, and the roof could come down on you! Anyone unfortunate enough to find themselves trapped in a remote area would have little chance of survival; help is too far away.

When you have had your fill of Buck Creek and environs, you can return to Jarbidge by the route down Deer Creek Grade. Or, you could go through the Diamond-A ranch and return to Jarbidge via Buck Creek and the Jarbidge Canyon road.

The road through the Diamond-A ranch is an access road and it is, therefore, open to public passage. As you go through the ranch proper, don't stop at the house unless you see someone in the dooryard. There are several dogs around the house and barns. They are not pets! Also, when coming down from the high country, you will go through several gates. Always remember--if you find the gate closed, close the gate behind you; if you find it open, leave it open. Ranchers like to find their animals in the pastures where they put them.

Proceed through the ranch area and out to the north (to the right). The road here is well maintained and easy to drive. It is the main road from the Diamond-A to "the outside". The people who live and work here are not expecting to find anyone driving on the road and your presence may take someone by surprise...drive slowly and carefully, and be on the lookout for vehicles coming from the opposite direction. Twenty-five miles per hour is probably fast enough.

The Buck Creek road passes into Idaho and meets the Jarbidge road deep in Jarbidge Canyon. About two miles after turning south on the main road, you will re-enter Nevada at a place characterized by huge columns of reddish-brown and grey rock. They are known as the Jarbidge Columns. A movement was underway in 1967 to set the columns area aside as a state park. However,the absence of appropriate flat places for camping on the east side of the river dictated the need for building and maintaining several bridges across the stream. It was decided that the cost would have been too great for the number of people who would benefit from the campgrounds that the bridges would serve.

The Jarbidge Columns remain as awesome rock spires that pierce the bright Nevada skies, providing strange and wonderful shapes to be recorded on film by everyone who passes by. The columns are even more interesting when it is considered that they were carved out of the solid rock by the Jarbidge River as it made its way northward to the Bruneau, the Snake, and the mighty Columbia... and the carving is still going on.

Another Road to the Western High Country

You may want to visit the high country west of town but have no desire to challenge the treacherous Deer Creek Grade or take the longer road through the Diamond-A ranch. It is possible to reach the country around the head of Buck Creek by another route. But this road isn't much better than Deer Creek Grade.

The first part of the drive follows the main road between Jarbidge and Elko; i.e., it goes south out of town along the river and then climbs the mountain to Bear Creek Summit. The first seven miles to the top of the "hill" are not tough going, although the road is steep in places. It is quite easy for a serviceable 4-WD vehicle such as the one you should be driving. The road traverses some very scenic spots including the upper canyon of the Jarbidge River, beautiful stands of aspen and fir along Bear Creek Canyon, and Bear Creek Meadows.

Along the road up the mountain, you will probably notice signs which prohibit camping in the watershed of Bear Creek. It happens that this stream is the source of drinking water for the town of Jarbidge! The people of the town take the water directly from the stream and put it in their water faucets--without treating it in any way! My family and I drink the water right out of the creek when we are hiking in the area. Some _E. coli_ bacteria have been found in the town's water pipes in recent years, however, and the state health officials have called this to the attention of Jarbidge residents. Plans are being made to install a water purifier to please the "environmentalists".

Back on the road to the high country, you will come to the top of Bear Creek Summit about a mile past Bear Creek Meadows. There, exactly at the summit, you will see a dirt road that leads off to the right and climbs steeply up the ridge. If you have not done so before now, you must engage the four-wheel drive here. The road continues to rise sharply as it climbs the south slope of Deer Mountain. In places, the road is rather "sidling" (i.e., one side of the road is higher than the other). This may make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up,- but not to worry. It is safe enough unless you are driving a top-heavy camper. In that case, you should not even start up this road!

The narrow track you are following goes right over the top of a rocky knob after the first especially steep climb. When you reach the top of this knob, you may think the road has ended (or just disappeared entirely!); but it is still there, and it continues down and up to the flat top of Deer Mountain (8973 ft.). There it passes through an open stand of conifers.

In the open woodland at the top of Deer Mountain, you may see a dim track that goes off to the right. It is not traveled often but; if taken, this road will lead east and north into the headwaters of Deer Creek. This is a pretty area that can provide a great camping and hiking experience. You can drive down into the forest for a mile or more and enjoy scenery not seen by other Jarbidge visitors. There is plenty of flat space for camping and water is not hard to find.

The headwaters of Deer Creek were used for grazing sheep in earlier times and, of course, the sheep were tended by Basque sheepherders. These fellows had the not-so-unusual habit of carving on tree trunks. They almost always carved their names on the trees together with the dates of their visits. They sometimes included drawings and comments, too. I have seen Basque carvings on the aspen trees in Deer Creek Canyon dating back to the Twenties!

Meanwhile, back on top of Deer Mountain--if you are still heading for the high country, just continue northward through the meadow mentioned earlier. The road will finally come to the power line described in the previous section. Before it gets there, however, it crosses the saddle between Trail Creek (a tributary of Deer Creek) and Coon Creek. Here you can find remnants of the old telephone line that once connected Mahoney Ranger Station just north of Jarbidge with Gold Creek Ranger Station far west of the Bruneau. In fact, the little canyon leading from here down into the Coon Creek drainage is called Telephone Canyon.

The road continues northward from the old telephone line for about a mile before coming to the power-line road west of Corral Creek. A left turn at the intersection will take you to the head of Buck Creek. A right turn will lead to the campsite on Corral Creek and to the Diamond-A ranch or Deer Creek Grade.

CAMPING IN JARBIDGE CANYON

People who enjoy sleeping and cooking in the outdoors or tramping through unspoiled wild America can really "have a ball" in the canyon of the Jarbidge River. Between Mahoney Ranger Station north of town and Snowslide Gulch at the south end of the canyon road, are eight "official" camping areas and a half-dozen other campsites as well.

The official camping places, established and maintained by the Forest Service, are supplied with picnic tables and fireplaces. Most of them also have pit toilets. One has piped-in spring water for drinking and cooking, while another has a well and pump to serve those needs. The Forest Service takes very good care of the official campgrounds in the canyon, keeping the grounds clean and even providing firewood in those years when extensive pruning of trees is required.

Cemetery Campground

This small campground is located south of Mahoney Ranger Station at a place where the road passes beneath a large overhanging outcrop of red volcanic rock. The camp can accommodate only three or four small parties at one time. It is provided with one fireplace, one table, and a pit toilet. It has no water supply; the nearby Jarbidge River is not fit to drink at any place north of the town. Cemetery Campground suffered severe damage in the spring of 1984 as a result of heavy runoff from the winter snows. The campground is named for its location; it is just across the river from the old Jarbidge cemetery.

The cemetery, which received its last permanent resident in the mid-Forties, is located on top of a little knoll just west of the river. The road that once served the "buryin' grounds" went right through the place that is now the campground and forded the river. It then turned south to a couple of big cottonwoods and climbed the hill to the one-acre cemetery. The road is still there, but it cannot be used by vehicles because the east bank of the river has been built up to protect the camp area. The visitor can, however, walk up to the cemetery and see some of the gravesites. The area is overgrown with brush and tall grasses, but a few gravemarkers can be found.

Sawmill Campground

Sawmill Campground is a quarter-mile south of Cemetery Campground. It is farther from the road than any of the other campgrounds in the canyon. It has been enlarged in recent years and can now accommodate several rigs or tent-camping groups. It has tables, fireplaces, and a toilet but no drinking water. It is very close to town, however, where water is available. It is spacious, flat, and dry. This means very little crowding, easy setting up, and fewer mosquitoes.

Jarbidge Campground

This very nice campground is located about a half-mile south of town. It is nestled in a curve in the river beneath a canopy of cottonwood trees. The camping area is very pretty; lots of bushes and flowers adorn the site, and the river here is quiet and scenic. The campground is supplied with fireplaces, tables and toilets, and excellent drinking water can be obtained from a hand-operated pump. Several spacious camps, separated by trees and foliage, make this an ideal place to stay.

Pavlak Campground

This camp comprises a small, flat space that can handle two or three families. It is located on the west side of the bridge near the site of the old Pavlak Post Office. (Pavlak was a group of houses that once occupied part of the river bank near Bonanza Gulch.) Pavlak Campground has only one fireplace, a picnic table, and a toilet.

Bluster Campground

Bluster Campground is located about a quarter-mile south of the Elko turnoff. This puts it about three and one-half miles south of town. It has only one campsite which is situated under big cottonwood trees in a tiny, flower-bedecked spot on the river bank. Of special interest here are two old fireplaces and chimneys that were once parts of houses that stood on the site. I am told that the houses were occupied by the supervisors of the Bluster Mine which was located about two miles up the steep road that climbs the mountain east of the camp. This mine was re-opened about two years ago, and only authorized vehicles are permitted on this active access road.

Pine Creek Campground

A short distance upstream from the Bluster site is Pine Creek Campground. It occupies a broad flat area at the place where Pine Creek joins the Jarbidge River. This lovely campground has two toilets, several campsites with individual parking spots and fireplaces, and the best drinking water in the state of Nevada (in my humble opinion)! The water is piped into the camp from a spring on the mountainside to the east. This is, without doubt, the best campground in Jarbidge Canyon.

Fox Creek Camp

Fox Creek Camp is not an official campsite. It is hidden off the road about a quarter-mile south of Pine Creek Campground. Just beyond the wooden bridge that crosses the river is a narrow, rocky road that leads to this secluded campsite. This is an old deerhunter's camp that cannot be seen from the road; it offers a lot of privacy. The camp is just large enough to accommodate a couple of tents or a small tent trailer. There are no facilities of any kind, of course, but Fox Creek water is clear and cold. There are no cattle or sheep in this area, nor are there any campsites higher up in Fox Creek canyon. The water is, therefore, potable. I have enjoyed it for years, so it must be all right. A trail goes up Fox Creek for a half-mile or so permitting exploration of a pretty box canyon that is seldom visited.

Urdahl Campground

Urdahl Campground, located about one-half mile south of Pine Creek, was established in 1985. It, together with the valley where Mahoney Ranger Station is located, is named for Mr. George Urdahl, the oldest resident of the town of Jarbidge. Mr. Urdahl has spent most of his life in Jarbidge. At age 81, he still works for the Forest Service. It is he who takes such good care of the campgrounds in Jarbidge Canyon.

Mexican Camp

The last official campground upstream in Jarbidge Canyon is a place called Mexican Camp. It is located about a quarter-mile south of Urdahl Campground. Mexican Camp is quite small, having room for only two camping rigs or perhaps three tents. It is provided with a fireplace, a table, and a toilet. The water in the river should be good to drink so long as it is obtained upstream from the campsites. Mexican Camp is sometimes used as a base camp from which to explore the highest parts of Jarbidge Canyon (beyond the end of the road) or Mahogany Flat (on top of an 1100-foot cliff east of the camp). Hikers who are intent on conquering the Matterhorn, highest peak in the Jarbidge Range, also use Mexican Camp as their final stopping place before attacking the summit.

CAMPING OUTSIDE OFFICIAL CAMPGROUNDS

Persons who live in the metropolitan areas of the United States but spend at least part of their time in the outdoors are used to visiting places like the Sierras, Yellowstone, or the Blue Ridge Mountains. They think this is "getting away from it all". When they arrive at their vacation paradise, however, they find that a whole lot of other people must have decided to enjoy "their" campsite and "their" hiking trails.

The number of people using our national parks and forests for recreational purposes has increased markedly in the last decade or so. The resulting pressure on the most widely known places, like the John Muir Trail and the Appalachian Trail, is so intense that persons wishing to walk through those scenic realms must make reservations! No, I'm not joking! They go to the Ticketron agency and pay hefty fees for the right to enjoy their own (public domain) National Parks and Forests. And when they have obtained the required permits, they find their hiking and camping restricted to certain trails and certain camping areas. Such is not the case in large parts of the northern Rockies and the Pacific Northwest.

In the Jarbidge region, you can pitch your tent or throw down your sleeping bag just about any place you please. The only exception I know of is the watershed of Bear Creek mentioned earlier. Of course, one would not consider camping on private property such as active mining claims--miners would not take a kindly view of such activities! You might have seen a sign somewhere like the one I ran across in California..."No Trespassing--Survivors Will Be Prosecuted!"

I believe the most attractive feature of the Jarbidge area is a libertarian attitude on the part of the people who live and work there. They have no desire to be governed by a set of bureaucratic rules; they like to "do their thing" and they don't mind letting others do the same just as long as the peace and quiet of the village is not disturbed. Nor do I think the situation will change in the near future. Certainly the publishing of this book is not going to cause the area to be so overrun by non-caring people that new rules will have to be adopted. I am sure this document will never make the New York Times best-seller list.

In any event, all one has to do to enjoy the great outdoors around Jarbidge is to get off the main road by a quarter-mile or so. You will not be bothered by other campers. I know of several beautiful camp sites near Jarbidge which can be reached by any 4-WD vehicle , but they are rarely seen or used.

Some of these secluded camping places can be found beyond the end of the Jarbidge Canyon road, south of Snowslide Gulch. Since this area is past the road's end, you must pack in. The water here is clean and plenty of firewood can be had from dead trees and brush. Of all the places in Jarbidge Canyon, this is the most idyllic. You can enjoy real peace and solitude in this pristine area. You can also explore such scenic and historic places as Norman's Mines and Sawmill Creek. For the most part, the walking is easy because the old road and several trails are intact.

Other pleasant camping locations can be found on the Elko side of Bear Creek Summit. Just at the top of this high point, for example, is a road that leads off to the south and west. It goes down into the canyon of Coon Creek. This is an especially nice area. There are lots of aspen and fir trees, grass, and wildflowers. A spring at the bottom of the winding road runs all year and provides water for drinking and cooking. There is plenty of firewood, too. And, by walking up or down the road near camp, you can find some interesting Basque carvings on the trunks of the aspen trees. To reach this place, a 4-WD vehicle is almost a necessity.

A very popular camping place is located about one and one-half miles south of Bear Creek Summit. It is right on the main road to Elko and is easily reached by the family sedan. This place has been used for years by deer hunters because it is located at a rather high elevation (8500 feet) and provides lots of flat space for parking. It also has a free-running spring that supplies excellent drinking water. The only "disadvantage" of this spot is its location on the main road. You might not feel good about walking away and leaving your camp when you go hiking. However, during the many years I have been in the area, I have never heard of anyone's campsite having been "ripped off". It would appear that the people who visit the remote parts of northern Nevada are more trustworthy than most.

In the final analysis, camping in the Jarbidge area is just about as good as can be found anywhere in the country. The region retains all its natural beauty, and it is a quiet, peaceful place.

CHAPTER SIX

HIKING AND BACKPACKING IN THE JARBIDGE REGION

If the whole world knew of the fabulous hiking and backpacking experiences to be enjoyed in the Jarbidge region, the place would be overrun with mountain pedestrians. Fortunately, however, little has been said and nothing has been written heretofore about this aspect of Jarbidge vacationing. It is my earnest hope that this book will inspire only those with a true love and respect for nature to "pick up the stone" and head for the Jarbidge high country.

Unlike the Sierras and the Pacific Northwest, the high mountains of northern Nevada have been found only by a handful of inquisitive hikers and backpackers. The area around Jarbidge is virtually unknown outside the immediate vicinity, yet the region offers a variety of hiking and backpacking opportunities. These range from short, one-day jaunts to wild-country tours lasting a week or more. Whichever you choose, one thing is certain: you will not meet anyone else on the trail!

Throughout this chapter, it will be assumed that you have a vehicle at your disposal. It need not be of the 4-wheel-drive type, although that would be helpful. You should also have U.S.G.S. topographic maps of your hiking areas.

Jarbidge walkers will want the latest 15-minute topographic maps of Jarbidge, Nevada-Ida.; Rowland, Nevada-Ida. (next to Jarbidge on the west); and Elk Mountain, Nevada-Ida. (next to Jarbidge on the east). In the descriptions of hikes and backpacking trips that follow, reference will be made to benchmarks, section numbers, and other notations that appear on those maps. While the needed maps may be bought locally in Jarbidge, Elko, or Twin Falls; don't count on it.

You should get your maps well in advance of your visit. Experienced hikers and backpackers will study their maps thoroughly before using them in the field. In this way, they can familiarize themselves with the country before actually seeing it.

The maps you need may be ordered from the U.S. Geological Survey; Federal Center; Denver, Colorado 80225. They cost $2.25 each in 1984.

CONVENIENT ONE-DAY HIKES

Some folks are not into backpacking, but they enjoy interesting hikes. This is especially true for those who like to observe the wildlife and the scenery without having to endure the more demanding and rigorous requirements of carrying a 40-pound backpack into an isolated wilderness area. Several experienced backpackers I know always take a few short, "tune-up" hikes in a new area before they strike out for the vast unknown. For both kinds of outdoorspersons, I have included descriptions of a number of short hikes in this section.

Bear Creek to Power-Line Road

The first hike recommended for those who are new to the area is one that is close to town. This hike is rather short and not too strenuous; total walking time is about two hours. To begin the hike, you may park your vehicle anywhere near the center of town; there is usually plenty of room for parking.

From the car, walk west up North Bear Street for a quarter-mile or so. Before the road curves to the left, you will be looking at a high rock wall that has several small caves near its base. On the right, is an even higher promontory made of bright red and orange rocks. Between these two rock masses is a narrow canyon or notch that goes to the top of the hill. A steep "trail" goes up the right side of this notch and comes out in a broad, flat meadow. This trail, which is now used only by deer, was once followed by Jarbidge residents who prospected the canyon and by cowboys going to and from the Diamond-A ranch. Evidence of early digging can be seen in the tailings pile and prospect tunnel located about halfway up the trail.

As you climb up to the meadow, you may want to stop and take a look at (and perhaps some pictures of) the mountainside east of the Jarbidge River. There you will see most of the workings (mines, mine dumps, and mill buildings) that made Jarbidge one of Nevada's premier mining districts during the Twenties. Notice that the mountain where most of the mining was done is devoid of trees. This is probably due to a difference in the soil here and the soil on the ridges and slopes farther south which are covered with dense growths of mahogany and subalpine fir.

The climb up the little canyon gets easier as you near the top, becoming no more than a gentle slope in the last 300-400 yards. It comes out on a pretty meadow that offers several resting places beneath small piñon pines and mahoganies. You can afford a couple of hours here wandering around the meadow exploring the brushy slopes to the west, enjoying the view of Bear Creek canyon to the south, or looking down on Main Street to the east.

In order to gain a better understanding of the area and to see more of the town, you will want to go north from the meadow. A northerly course will soon bring you to the power-line road which leads eastward down a very steep hill to the north end of "California" Street. This street is seldom used by anyone but residents. It follows the west bank of the river and takes you right back up Main Street to the place where you parked your vehicle.

The Crippen Grade

Another very interesting, but much more difficult one-day hike allows you to explore the Crippen Grade. As stated in an earlier chapter, this was one of the earliest roads into Jarbidge Canyon. It was built around 1914 and was used for only four or five years.

If you were looking for the Crippen Grade as you drove into town from the north, you probably couldn't see it. It is high up the side of the east canyon wall and is generally hidden behind trees and brush, broken or covered by landslides, or washed away by springs and melting snows. The best way to see the Crippen Grade before hiking on it is to walk or drive a short distance up Deer Creek Grade (on the west side of the canyon) and look across the river to the east. Even from this vantage point, the old road is visible only as a straight, light-colored line that traverses the canyon wall above rock pinnacles and talus slopes.

Because of the difficulty of the terrain, this hike should be undertaken only by those who are in good physical condition and accustomed to the 6000-foot altitude of the Jarbidge area. There is no potable water along the way, so the canteens should be filled before starting the journey. Strong trail boots and a sturdy walking staff (a stout willow limb about six feet long is ideal) will be helpful when negotiating steeper slopes along the way. On my Crippen Grade hike, I took binoculars, a camera, a notebook, and a light lunch. I should also have taken a small first-aid kit to repair numerous cuts and scrapes suffered while clambering through brush.

I have found that it is much better to hike down the Crippen Grade rather than up it. Doing it that way allows you to get all the climbing done while you are still fresh. I start at the Barn Hotel (north end of town) and go up the road to the east. I follow this road for a mile or so, crossing the mountainside above Mahoney Ranger Station.

High on the ridge above Mahoney, the road goes through a fence and then drops down into the valley of Jenny and Jack Creeks. This is a quiet and beautiful place; it is isolated from the rest of the world by steep mountainsides in all directions. The only sounds are the rushing of the streams and the songs of birds. It is an idyllic spot.

Once across Jack Creek, I walk downstream to a place where the canyon widens on the north side. I then go north up a little slope to a broad meadow lush with tall, green grass. In the middle of the grassy area, the ground is flooded by a perennial spring which issues from a stand of aspen and willows to the east. Here can be seen a few fence posts and some barbed wire; all that remains of the Campbell homestead, a pioneer landmark of the area.

Only a few years ago, the old house and a shed stood here, but the Forest Service is in the midst of a program to "reclaim" the land by removing old, unused buildings from the landscape.

While walking in this area, you should be on the lookout for rattlesnakes. I have seen several here. In fact, all brushy and wet places at elevations of 6000 feet or less are potential habitats for rattlers. Here is another use for the walking staff. I poke mine into the brush ahead of me to scare off the little vipers. In the higher and drier places, snakes are no problem; but I am always careful along streams and in wet, grassy spots.

Leaving the meadow at the old homestead, you can walk straight east about 200 yards through a stand of aspen and cedars to intersect the road from Jack Creek on its way to the top of the Big Island. I follow the road uphill for only about 100 yards to the place where it turns sharply to the east.

If you look at your map, you will see that the road makes a big turn to the north and west, only to cross above you on its way to the top. Instead of following the road, I climb straight up the hill to the north and meet the road near the place where it is crossed by the power line. The climb isn't as bad as it looks, and it saves a lot of walking.

There are several mahogany trees and big boulders along this higher part of the road. I find a likely spot along here and take a well-deserved breather. After a few swallows of water, a couple of hard candies, and a photograph or two; I set out for the top of the Big Island. It is only a short distance to the cattle guard at the top. Now the climbing is all done! From here on, it is all downhill!

Walking due north from the cattle guard across the gentle slope of the plateau will bring you to a shallow gully that comes in from the east and deepens toward the rim of Jarbidge Canyon. This is where the Crippen Grade begins. You can see the old road east of here; it is still used by deer hunters. In fact, the only signs I have seen that anyone has visited the place since 1918 were an old soda can and a corroded 30-06 casing which I found in the brush.

Following this little gully, the track goes northwest to a stand of mahoganies and cedars. The only indication that a road once existed here is a flattening of the slope where the roadbed once was. Cedars eight feet tall grow right in the middle of the old roadway. Sagebrush six inches in diameter has grown and died there also. It has been 70 years since this road was used! It would be an exaggeration to say the Crippen Grade is even a trail now.

Once in the mahoganies, the "road" turns toward the southeast into a dense growth of aspens and willows. Yes, there is water here, but not much; just a tiny spring that only wets the ground. Here, as in other places farther down, trees and brush choke the old road so completely that one is obliged to remove the pack and crawl under the branches, dragging the duffle behind. Either that or carefully pick one's way along the unstable sliderock that borders the right (canyon) side of the roadway.

Splendid views of Jarbidge Canyon can be realized at any place along the Crippen Grade. The sparkling river can be seen among the trees in the canyon far below, and Deer Creek Grade is clearly visible on the opposite side of the valley. These are vistas never seen from any other vantage point.

The walking becomes easier about halfway down the hill. Fewer trees and open growth of bushes permits a more leisurely pace. Just above Jack Creek, the roadway flattens out as it goes over the top of a huge outcrop of red-brown rhyolite. It then turns sharply east, right on top of this gigantic rock, and follows a narrow ledge for about 150 yards as it descends into Jack Creek.

The ruins of the old bridge, which until not too long ago could still be used to cross the creek, are still visible. The walking staff or the willows growing here can be used to go down into the rushing stream. Stepping from one rock to the next across the creek and clambering up the bank on the other side brings you to the only part of the Crippen Grade that can still be called a road.

This part of the road, lying south of Jack Creek, sometimes is used by campers, picnickers, and hunters. It is quite pleasant to sit in the green, grassy place where the bridge used to be and listen to the splashing of the stream, watch the hawks wheeling high among the cliffs, and enjoy the foliage and the wildflowers that carpet the ground.

A short walk along the road from here will bring you to the old Jack Creek Road and the main road in Jarbidge Canyon. I prefer to walk along the upper road on the way into town because it is more interesting; it goes past the old garbage dump where exciting relics might be found. The old road joins the main road near the present landfill and Mahoney Ranger Station. From there, it is just a short walk into Jarbidge.

The Crippen Grade trip (or loop) as described here takes nine or ten hours of almost continuous walking. You should get an early start so you won't have to hurry on the outbound leg; i.e., from the Barn Hotel to the top of the Big Island. That part of the trip is only about one-third of the total distance, but it will use up most of your energy. The whole trip is eight or nine miles long. If you get back down onto the Jarbidge road by early evening, you are in good shape. The sun doesn't set here until about 9 o'clock (Mountain Time).

Copper Mountain

A third one-day hike that is quite rewarding is the climb to the top of Copper Mountain. Although this is one of the higher peaks in the Jarbidge area (9911 ft.), the ascent is fairly easy. The hike begins at Coon Creek Summit which lies at an elevation of about 8400 feet on the main road between Jarbidge and Elko. It is roughly two and one-half miles south of Bear Creek Summit, in the southwest corner of the U.S.G.S. topographic map of the Jarbidge quadrangle. You will notice that Copper Mountain is not shown on this topo sheet; it is in the southeast corner of the Rowland quadrangle. You will, therefore, need both topographic maps for this hike.

The approach to Copper Mountain is made by driving to Coon Creek Summit. There, right at the Forest Service sign, you will see a dirt road that goes across the broad, flat area towards the west.

You should not take the left-hand branch of this road; it leads over some rough terrain to a sheep camp. Stay on the top of the ridge and aim for the clump of trees about a quarter-mile away. If you are in a two-wheel drive vehicle, park in the flat place under the hill and look the situation over. If you are driving a strong 4-WD, you can go on to the top of the hill for perhaps another half-mile and stop in a grove of pine trees at the end of the road. This is a real nice camping spot should you decide to stay overnight.

As you go up the hill, you will see the sheer rock face to the southwest. It is spectacular! The cliff is made of silicified limestone, a rock that was deposited in an ancient sea that covered this area about 500 million years ago! The rock in this cliff is some of the oldest in this part of the world. The original limestone was covered up by thousands of feet of younger sediments. This and other geologic forces subjected the limestone to intense heat and pressure which altered the rock and made it what it is today.

Just beneath this massive cliff is a bowl-shaped depression. Your hike up Copper Mountain really begins at the north side of this bowl, which is actually a small cirque that was formed by a tiny glacier during the Ice Ages. As you enter the bowl, at an elevation of about 9000 feet, you will see that it is generally grassy. Patches of long-leaf pine grow here and there and large boulders are strewn about the surface. Don't be surprised to find several mule deer in this area. They like the cirque in summer since it is warmed by the early morning sun, has plenty of food and water and is seldom visited by man.

Although you began your hike at an early hour, you should not spend too much time enjoying the scenery near the little cirque. There is still a long way to go before reaching the top of Copper Mountain. Strike out towards the west from the north side of the bowl, angling up the ridge. Once on top of the ridge, continue climbing towards the peak marked "9740" on your Rowland map. At about 9500 feet, you will reach the saddle between this peak and the next peak to the south.

The grassy saddle where you now stand is an ideal place to rest. You might want to replenish your fuel supply here by eating some of those candies and dried fruits you brought along. Although most of the climbing is behind you, there is still a four-mile round trip to make at an elevation of more than 9500 feet. The air is cold up here and the wind is probably blowing at 30 mph or more, so you might want to keep your jacket handy.

From your resting place on the saddle, walk up the slope to the south towards the next high point. It is not necessary here to go higher than about 9750 feet. Swing to the southwest around the peak and cross the next saddle to the south, aiming at the peak marked "9853" on your map. Continue south and then southeast along the descending ridge of the saddle at 9500 feet. You are now about three-fourths of a mile from the top of Copper Mountain. A climb of 400 feet in three-fourths of a mile is no climb at all. Relax!

The scenery from the saddle where you are now walking, as well as from the top of Copper Mountain, is beyond description. Immediately below is Copper Basin with its green meadows and sparkling beaver ponds. To the east lies the entire Jarbidge Range. Clearly visible on the southern horizon is the Ruby Range, more than 100 miles away! The Bruneau country, Tennessee Mountain, and the Independence Range are on the west. And to the north stretch the Snake River Plains and far-away peaks of Idaho.

The return to your vehicle is best achieved by backtracking to the southeast side of the peak above the great cliff. From there, it is downhill and across the rocks and the cirque to the road.

Climbing the Matterhorn

One trip that most hikers in the Jarbidge area want to make is an assault on the Matterhorn. This is the highest point in the Jarbidge Range; its elevation is 10,837 feet. The Matterhorn resembles the world-famous mountain in Switzerland for which it is named. It has a rather triangular shape, and its north face is a sheer wall of volcanic rock. Its shape is typical of the "horns" found in all glaciated mountain ranges around the world.

The easiest and best way to attack the Matterhorn is to scramble up the ridge on the south side of Snowslide Gulch (at the south end of the road in Jarbidge Canyon). This is a steep climb, but the hiker is aided by bushes and small trees which can be used as "helping hands" in getting up the hill.

I don't know how most hikers would feel about it, but I like to make this hike a two-day affair. Climbing more than 4000 feet in the morning and coming back down in the afternoon is a bit much. I usually start in the afternoon and put down my pack at the flat place near 9150 feet. Then I settle down for the evening. That way, I don't have to work my tail off getting to the top before noon or one o'clock. Besides, this high, flat place is great for looking at the surrounding countryside. From here, you can see Copper Mountain and all the country to the west. Mary's River Peak, just south of Jarbidge Canyon, seems so close you could almost touch it. The snow-capped peaks of the Rubies south of Elko and the Independence Range far to the west are also visible.

From the bivouac at 9150 feet, the remainder of the climb to the top of the Matterhorn is relatively easy. A way can be selected to the top of the saddle that separates the Matterhorn from the next mountain to the north, Squaretop. On this saddle, at an altitude of about 10,250 feet, are a number of animal trails. Follow one of these to a point below the peak and then scramble to the top.

MATTERHORN

Since the tip of the Matterhorn is the highest point in northern Nevada, it goes without saying that the view from there is magnificient! Drink it in and get lots of pictures! Before retreating down the slope, you might want to reach under the little pile of rocks on the top and retreive the small, glass jar secreted there. It contains notes and mementos left by earlier visitors. Leave your own remembrance and join the club!

Seasoned hikers may elect to return to the canyon floor by a route different from the one used to make the ascent. Although there are no trails here, either of two routes may be taken. One, to the south, follows the ridge towards Cougar Peak. It then drops down to Ole Norman's Mines and the trail back to Snowslide Gulch. The other leads northward towards Squaretop, following those animal trails across the saddle.

From the southwest corner of Squaretop, you can descend the ridge north of Snowslide Gulch, past a couple of old mines and prospects, to Mahogany Flat. This level "bench" is about 1100 feet above the valley floor at Mexican Camp.

MAHOGANY FLAT

The west side of Mahogany Flat is quite steep, but the northwest side has a more gentle slope and is easy to negotiate. When I come down from Mahogany Flat, I aim northwest across the highest part.

This route takes me through the broad, grassy field beneath large pine trees and gnarled mahoganies. If I stay well above Gorge Gulch on my right and the steep cliff on my left, I soon see what could be traces of an ancient roadbed right in front of me. It is, in fact, the shallow depression left by an old wagon road that once went to the top of Mahogany Flat. If you come this way, follow the old roadbed down to the Jarbidge Canyon road. You will reach the road at a place that is only a half-mile from the road's end at Snowslide Gulch, where you probably left your vehicle.

LONGER BACKPACKING TRIPS

The Jarbidge area is visited by only a few hundred people each year. It is a good bet that no more than a half-dozen of these visitors are backpackers. The whole region, therefore, remains in its natural, pristine condition. When you can see deer browsing on the lawns and gardens in the town, you might easily imagine the joys of backpacking through the rarely visited Jarbidge Wilderness and the equally primitive country near by. This is a backpacker's dream!

The most popular place for backpacking is the Wilderness; it consists of 66,000 acres of deep canyons, snow-capped peaks, and dense forest. The main entrance to the Wilderness from the west is at the road's end south of Jarbidge. Some of the wild-country walkers who enter the Wilderness here go farther south into the Mary's River drainage. Others visit Jarbidge Lake (not identified on the U.S.G.S. map) or Emerald Lake. Those who wish to go deeper into the wild country use this entry to reach the canyon of the East Fork or to cross the Wilderness, leaving it at Hummingbird Springs just south of Pole Creek Ranger Station.

A second trailhead is found at Prunty's Camp, which was mentioned in Chapter Five (see p. 65). This entrance permits exploration of the East Fork canyon and the country between the East Fork and the Pole Creek Ranger Station.

Another entrance to the Wilderness can be found near the head of Seventy Six Creek. This entrance cannot be seen from either the road or the map. To find it, drive from Jarbidge to the Palisade, south of Coon Creek Summit. After the main road makes a sharp turn to the west, you will see a sign marked "Camp Draw" at a dirt road that goes south from the main highway. Take this road to its end. The entrance to the Wilderness is located about a mile and a half east of this place. Go across the creek and follow the trail.

It is unlikely that more than four persons each year attempt the most difficult trip from Perkins Cabin (at the south end of the Jarbidge Canyon road) to Three-Day Creek. A family group might venture into the Mary's River country during the course of a summer. Jack Creek Crater is rarely visited by anyone.

Since backpacking is predicated on taking all your gear and food with you, it is not necessary to start or end your trek at any particular place. The only thing to concern yourself about is where to leave your vehicle while you are gone. For most of your hikes, you might find it convenient to leave your wheels in town or at the south end of the canyon road at Snowslide Gulch.

Jack Creek Crater and Jarbidge Peaks

A logical first backpacking trip for the Jarbidge newcomer is a two-day or three-day trek to Jack Creek Crater and the peaks and ridges that comprise the spine of the Jarbidge Range. Such a trip serves two purposes. First, it offers the hiker an opportunity to become familiar with the "lay of the land", providing a clear view of the surrounding country. Second, climbing the highest country first tests the breathing apparatus and gets the legs in shape for longer hikes.

There are two approaches to "The Crater" and the Jarbidge peaks. One follows the mining company road on the east side of the Jarbidge River. The other goes up the ridge north of Moore Gulch (NW 1/4 of Sec.16, T46N, R58E). Start at the road just north of the Barn Hotel and follow it to the power line. From there, go straight up the ridge to the 8500-foot level where a road enters the forest.

The road soon leaves the forest and crosses a sagebrush-covered space. It then turns back uphill to enter the forest again. Follow the road to its end, staying below the brow of the ridge on the west. A little searching around to the south will reveal a dim trail that goes through the trees and heads for Jack Creek Crater. The road and trail mentioned here are shown in Sections 15, 22, and 23 of T46N, R58E.

The trail soon leaves the trees and crosses a mass of jumbled rocks for a distance of about 200 yards. The rocks are part of the morainal material left by a small glacier that moved down the mountainside here during the Ice Ages.

Crossing the rocks, the trail enters a stand of small pine trees to the SSE and rises to the top of the ridge in the SW corner of Sec.23. There, at an elevation of 9400 feet, the trail meets an old road that leads down into Jack Creek Crater.

Continuing down this old road, you will notice that parts of the roadbed consist of logs laid perpendicular to the direction of the slope. The logs were placed that way to reduce erosion by runoff from melting snow; an ingenious device. After descending to the floor of the crater, the road goes east and south along the north side of a high rock wall. The valley floor here is covered with rock debris and clay soil, which is typical of glaciated areas.

About halfway across the valley floor, you will come to a crossroad. As suggested on your map, you want to take the right-hand road and turn south toward the high ridge on the right.

All across the valley there is evidence of prospecting that was done soon after gold was discovered in Jarbidge Canyon. Piles of rock from prospect holes dot the area and ruins of old cabins can be seen in several places. If you should come across an old cabin that is in good shape, please do not disturb or take away anything you find there. These old ruins have been used on more than one occasion by hikers, prospectors, and hunters who have been caught in storms among these peaks. The cabins, dilapidated as they may be, were their only means of survival.

The camera should be at the ready when you enter the main part of Jack Creek Crater. On the left, just under the high, rock cliff is a tiny "lake". This is the small depression shown in the NE corner of Sec.26. Farther along the road is a happy little brook that bounces down rock ridges to cross the meadow and fill the little lake below. Tiny, short-lived wildflowers border the creek and form bright patches in the verdant meadow. Here and there on the crater floor grow small clumps of dark-green pine trees. Walls of red, orange, brown, and grey rock encircle the crater; their colors highlighted by the azure sky and white clouds which are almost always present in northern Nevada during the summer months.

The road across the crater winds west and south to the tumbledown ruins of the old dormitory and cookshack which housed and fed the hardy indiv- who worked the Altitude Mine. The mine is located high on the south wall of the crater. It is of no use to climb up to the mine with the intention of going inside; the entry faces north, and it is plugged by 50 or 60 feet of solid ice which has accumulated during the severe winters that have visited the region since the mine was closed. Here, in addition to the fallen buildings, one can see relics of the power line, big transformers, and the tram system that brought ore out of the mine to the valley floor.

By the time you have explored the area around the Altitude Mine and the old dormitory, there will still be plenty of light. The sun does not set until about nine o'clock at this latitude. You may want to search for purple bottles or other relics which may be found at various places around the crater floor. On the other hand, just wandering around inside the crater can be interesting. In any event, it would not be a good idea to leave the crater at this hour in the hope of finding a better campsite along the trail. Jack Creek Crater is probably the best camping spot in the whole region. You should be aware, however, of the extreme cold that characterizes this area at night. It is certain that the nighttime temperature will drop below freezing, since the elevation of the crater floor ranges from 9500 to 9800 feet! Your sleeping bag had better be a warm one! A small tent is almost a necessity since summer rainstorms (and snowstorms) are fairly common occurences at these altitudes.

Rise early in the morning and enjoy a high-powered breakfast. You will need all the energy you can get to reach the top of Jarbidge Peak. The best way to approach the peak is from the north. So, its back along the road to the trailhead in the SW corner of Sec.23.

It is difficult, but not impossible, to scale the rock wall in the SE part of Sec.22. If you find this too challenging (as I did), you must go back across the rocks to the NE part of Sec.22 where the trail begins. It is then an easy matter to go to the top of the ridge leading southward towards Jarbidge Peak. The walk along the ridge looks easy enough on the map, but it should be remembered that you are rising 2000 feet in one and one-half miles at an altitude of 8800 feet and above! By the time you reach the top of Jarbidge Peak, a rest will be much appreciated.

Right on top of Jarbidge Peak is a tiny building which houses radio repeater equipment that belongs to the U.S. Forest Service. The radio here receives messages from Forest Service transmitters, amplifies the signals, and rebroadcasts them to other receivers. The facility has been used many times to fight fires and to assist in the evacuation of sick or injured persons from Jarbidge.

From Jarbidge Peak southward, the walking is much easier. At no place along the four-mile trek to Cougar Peak is it necessary to drop below 10,000 feet. You will want to climb to the top of all the peaks, of course. It would be a shame to have to say, "I have been on top of every peak except...".

The western boundary of the Jarbidge Wilderness follows along the crest of the Jarbidge Range; the ridge you are walking on. All of the land for seven miles to the east is in the Wilderness---and it should be! This is an unique geomorphic and geologic area. The "bowls" or "craters" east of the peaks are glacial cirques like the one at the head of Jack Creek. Their distinctive form and the U-shaped valleys below them are testimony to the effects of masses of ice which long ago occupied the region. The U-shaped valleys lead down into the heart of the East Fork country, which is as primitive as any place in the 48 contiguous states.

It is very likely that your next backpacking trip will be one through the Wilderness. This walk along the spine of the Jarbidge Range offers the opportunity to view the Wilderness from above. It is easy to see from here the general course of the trail to Hummingbird Springs (Sec.12, T45N, R59E) and the trail(s) down the East Fork to Three-day Creek.

Since you are presently hiking at high altitudes, you may not reach the top of Cougar Peak until late in the day. If this is the case, you can follow the southeast "nose" of Cougar Peak just into the NW corner of Sec.18, T45N, R59E. From here, you could walk southwesterly downhill to the shores of Emerald Lake and set up camp for the night. Tiny Emerald Lake is quiet and serene. Although not a deep lake, it is the habitat of numerous lively trout that are just right for the frying pan. (A valid Nevada fishing license is required here, of course.)

If you arrive at Cougar Peak early enough in the afternoon, you may elect to come down the southwest nose of the mountain onto the little knob marked "10166" just west of Emerald Lake. From there, you can drop down to Norman's Mines, which are in the center of Sec.24, T45N, R58E. Then pick up the trail that leads from here to Jarbidge Canyon.

Mary's River Trail and Camp Draw

Pine Creek Campground or Mexican Camp would be good places from which to begin a backpacking jaunt through the southwestern part of the Jarbidge Wilderness. Then again, you might wish to start in Jarbidge and make a longer and more interesting trip. In either event. you would enter the Wilderness from the trailhead at Snowslide Gulch.

From Snowslide Gulch, at the south end of the canyon road, follow the old road to the place marked "Perkins Cabin" in Sec.14, T45N, R58E. The trail, which is well defined, goes off in two directions. Take the right-hand trail toward the south. Unless the signs have been removed since my last visit, this branch of the trail is clearly marked "Mary's River" and "W. Mary's River".

The rising trail generally follows the canyon of a small tributary of the Jarbidge River until it reaches the top of a ridge at BM 8829 in Sec.23. It then goes down a dry gulch for about a half-mile until it comes to the West Mary's River.

According to the U.S.G.S. map of the Jarbidge quadrangle, the trail crosses West Mary's River at BM 8052 in Sec.26. Since the map was made, however, another trail has been built. Branching off to the southwest, this trail follows the valley of West Mary's River. It goes down into the canyon for about two miles where it meets the Camp Draw trail coming in from the west. This intersection of trails is about a half-mile off the Jarbidge map due south of the centerline of Sec.34, T45N, R58E.

It would seem reasonable to follow the West Mary's River trail as it goes downstream toward the southwest. However, during the winter of 1985-86, a massive avalanche carried large trees and other debris into the West Mary's canyon. It is blocked for about three-eighths of a mile just above the confluence with Camp Draw. The best bet is to avoid the canyon of the West Mary's River and follow a higher route.

Instead of following the West Mary's River trail, stay on the Mary's River trail for another three-fourths of a mile. This will take you southwest into a forest of subalpine fir to the top of the rise at BM 8485 in Sec. 35. From here the trail descends to a small tributary of the West Mary's and rises to a saddle between two knobs of about equal height; one on your right and one on your left. Leave the trail at this point and head for the knob on your right. Skirt this peak along the east side and go toward the next high point to the southwest, passing to the right of some large rock outcrops. Go around the peak, keeping the canyon of the West Mary's River in sight as you do so. From here, you can see the confluence of the West Mary's and Camp Draw. Angle down the slope to the southwest, being careful to avoid the jumble of downed trees and avalanche debris near the juncture of the two canyons.

On the day when I visited this area, I came to the confluence of the two streams at about noon. I was pleased to find there a neat sheepherder's camp and two congenial Basque sheepherders, Francisco Damboriena and Juan Contin Ilincheta. Although I speak no Spanish and they spoke no English, we were able to communicate quite satisfactorily. We shared our lunches and I enjoyed some of their red wine, drinking from a well-used bota. And they appreciated my "tailor made" cigarettes while we visited.

From the West Mary's River, the trail goes westward along a small perennial stream that has its origin in a number of springs in Camp Draw. The first few hundred yards of the trail traverse open sagebrush and grass. The trail then enters a mature stand of aspen that covers an area of at least 20 acres. This is one of the most pleasant places I have found in the Jarbidge area.

At the head of the box canyon that comprises Camp Draw, the trail crosses the tiny stream and switches back and forth through an aromatic stand of subalpine fir. It finally arrives at the trailhead which is located on a wind-swept saddle about a mile and a half east of the Jarbidge-Elko road.

Since there is a good trail at this place, the walk toward the Jarbidge-Elko road is quite easy. The first half-mile is across rather open country where brush and grass prevail; the last part traverses a broad, shimmering grove of quaking aspen.

After entering the aspen grove at Seventy-Six Creek, you will come to a jeep trail which can be followed to the Jarbidge-Elko road. Once on the main road, you can walk along it down into Jarbidge Canyon. However, it is by now rather late in the day and you may want to stop for the night.

You can camp in the aspens east of the main Jarbidge road, or you can walk along the road toward Jarbidge for about four and one-half miles to a wonderful camping spot at BM 8265. This fine campsite affords good spring water and plenty of flat space where you can sleep peacefully ,beneath subalpine firs or star-studded skies (See p. 87).

Since you are on foot and not in the family sedan, you don't have to follow the main road back to the car. You can follow any route you please. (That's the essence of backpacking, isn't it?) One interesting alternative route that can be taken follows a well-defined jeep road that comes onto the main road about a quarter-mile north of the campsite where you may have spent the night.

The jeep road gently descends the slope of a hill towards the canyon of Coon Creek. It passes by an old tungsten mine and the remains of a small mill that was used to process the tungsten ore. The road continues northward, entering a stand of firs which fills the lower part of a little tributary canyon. It crosses two small streams and turns westward through a lovely patch of quaking aspens----very quiet, very shady, and very cool.

While you are in this grove of trees, you will notice that some of them have been decorated with interesting Basque carvings. (See pp. 87 & 88)

Once out of the aspens, the road switches back towards the east and climbs up to join the main road at Bear Creek Summit. Depending on whether you left the vehicle in town or at Pine Creek Campground, you will decide which route to follow from Bear Creek Summit. The sign at the summit is about seven miles from Jarbidge if you follow the road. By the same road, it is almost five miles to Pine Creek Campground. However, shorter distances can be realized to either destination by walking through the woods.

The sign at Bear Creek Summit is situated at almost exactly 8500 feet. If you are going to Pine Creek, it is a relatively easy matter to follow the 8500-foot contour eastward for about a mile onto the nose of a ridge shown in Sec.5, T45N, R58E. From there, you can negotiate the steep slope to the northeast down into the little gully in the NE corner of Sec.5. Following the gully down to Pine Creek, you will find a trail, albeit not a well-defined one. This "trail" follows Pine Creek to meet the Jarbidge River south of the campground.

You also can save a couple of miles on the hike into Jarbidge by going down the road toward town until you come to Bear Creek Meadows. The road crosses Bear Creek at an elevation of just over 8000 feet. About a hundred yards north of the culvert at Bear Creek, a road can be seen to go west and north up into some aspen trees on the hillside. Take this old road to the hilltop. The climb is moderately steep, but it does not go very high. At no place does it reach an elevation greater than 8450 feet. It skirts the northeast side of Deer Mountain and then goes through the fir trees towards the valley of Deer Creek.

After about a quarter-mile of easy walking on this road, you will see open grass on a hillside to the northeast. Go to the grassy area and down into the canyon of Deer Creek. In the first grove of aspens you see are several really old Basque carvings. There are many similar carvings on other trees farther down the canyon.

The Basque carvings you have been looking at are almost exactly in the SW corner of Sec.20, T46N, R58E. From here, pick your way down into the canyon and follow it northward. You may or may not be able to find a road that goes NE across the NW quarter of Sec.20. If you don't see the road, go down the canyon to the power-line road. Once on this road, simply follow it eastward to California Street at the north end of Jarbidge.

BACKPACKING IN THE WILDERNESS

A book of the kind presented here should be authoritative. It would be presumptuous of me to think my readers so naive as to accept my word for trail conditions, weather conditions, etc., without some assurance that I knew something about the Wilderness. Because I had not personally journeyed through the Wilderness when I began writing this book, I decided to delay its publication until I had actually walked the ground.

Well, nearly a year has passed since the above paragraph was written, and I still have not "seen the elephant and heard the owl hoot", as the old-time cowboys would say. I had intended to make four or five extended trips on the main Wilderness trails and then to describe those trails in detail. Mother Nature, however, interfered with my plans.

The winter of 1983-84 was characterized by heavy snowfall; the people of Jarbidge estimated that as much as 17 feet of the white stuff fell throughout the winter. While most of it melted in town, heavy snowpack remained in the Wilderness and at higher elevations. When Spring came, the enormous runoff did considerable damage to Wilderness trails. Some of the trails along the East Fork were washed away by high water, and rockslides occurred throughout the entire Wilderness area. I knew about these conditions and they were not a factor in decisions made in the summer of 1986.

The winter of 1984-85 was one of normal snowfall and had little further effect on the trails in the Wilderness. The Forest Service had hoped to repair trails damaged during the previous season; but because of a shortage of funds (a problem that seems to forever plague Government agencies), no repairs were accomplished in the summer of 1985. It was still possible to negotiate most of the trails.

In November and December of 1985, there was very heavy snowfall at elevations of 8,000 feet and above. Then, in February of 1986, the weather turned unusually warm and large quantities of rain drenched the entire region. The high temperatures and heavy downpours loosened the snowpack. This resulted in numerous rockslides and avalanches that completely obliterated the trails in many areas, especially on north- and west-facing slopes.

Wishing to be as thorough as possible in my treatment of the Jarbidge Wilderness, I talked with representatives of the Forest Service and anyone else who might know about trail conditions. Agee Smith, a rancher who ocassionally runs a string of pack horses out of the O'Neil Basin country, went through the southeast part of the Wilderness in mid-July. He reported that the trails around Camp Creek (Sec. 28, 29, and 32; T45N; R59E) were "in terrible condition" and that it was not possible to go down Cougar Creek and the East Fork of the Jarbidge River.

The Forest Service, upon hearing such reports and having conducted surveys of its own, has begun to repair as much of the damage as possible within the limits of its funding. The trail from Perkins Cabin to Emerald Lake (which is the most often used trail in the area) has been cleared of avalanche debris. In addition, a new trail is being surveyed at higher elevation from Sliderock Ridge to God's Pocket Peak. This will avoid the widespread destruction in the Camp Creek area and allow passage to Hummingbird Springs.

Upon hearing these discouraging reports, I recalled the old saying, "Discretion is the better part of valor." I decided not to attempt any solo trips through the Wilderness this summer. Instead, I limited my walks to those areas I knew I could get out of (or be found in) in case of accident or other emergency. Backpacking alone even under good conditions is ill advised.

The reader will find, however, that I have not completely ignored the Wilderness area. The trek from Perkins Cabin to Camp Draw was described in an earlier section of this book. Information also was given about Jack Creek Crater and the high peaks of the Jarbidge Range. In addition to words about the climb from Perkins Cabin to Emerald Lake, I shall include here some information and photos pertinent to the East Fork country.

Snowslide Gulch to Emerald Lake

The round-trip distance from Snowslide Gulch to Emerald Lake is approximately 12 miles, which is farther than most hikers would like to travel in one day at altitudes of 7500 to 9500 feet. This is also a very pretty area and one should go slowly and enjoy it. Thus, it is best to make this an overnight trip.

The walk to Emerald Lake begins at Snowslide Gulch at the south end of the road in Jarbidge Canyon. If you wish to get an early start, you might stay in Mexican Camp the night before you begin your hike. There is usually plenty of room to park your car at the end of the road if you start at any other time of day.

The first part of the trip to Emerald Lake is identical to the first part of the Camp Draw hike described earlier; i.e., the "trail" follows the old road southward to Perkins Cabin at the head of Jarbidge Canyon. A trail sign at the site of Perkins Cabin shows the way to Emerald Lake, but it does not indicate distance.

From Perkins Cabin eastward, the trail follows the old road to a place called Norman's Mines. It is about a mile along the trail and 1500 feet vertically from Perkins Cabin to the cabin and mines once operated by Ole Norman. Until recently, there were two cabins at the Norman's Mines site. Now, however, only one cabin stands. It is near the trail, so you can hardly miss it. The cabin that remains is in very good condition and should be respected since it provides shelter for hunters or persons who find that they cannot quite make it back to Snowslide Gulch before nightfall. The area around Norman's Mines is interesting and you may wish to spend an hour or so in the vicinity.

Leaving Norman's Mines, get back on the trail and head eastward again. The way gets easier here as it goes southeast past Jarbidge Lake, a small meltwater puddle located at about 9350 feet in the southern part of Sec. 24, T45N, R58E. From here, a fairly steep climb of about 100 feet brings you to the top of the ridge where the trailhead to the East Fork was formerly located. This is a high, windswept spot that affords unobstructed views of the huge box canyon on the north side of Mary's River Peak. Snow, which provides water for the East Fork of the Jarbidge River, can almost always be seen here. Prospect Peak and Cougar Peak are visible to the north and God's Pocket Peak, about five miles to the east, can also be seen.

The trail to Emerald Lake proceeds downhill and towards the northeast for nearly a mile before entering the glacial cirque below Cougar Peak. The Jarbidge quadrangle map shows that the trail does not go to Emerald Lake but continues down Cougar Creek instead. This is not correct. In the time since the map was made, a trail has been developed that leads right to the lake. It enters the cirque from the southeast and leaves in a northeasterly direction to join the trail down into the East Fork country.

Emerald Lake is not a large body of water; it is only about 200 yards long and 50 yards wide. The lake is shallow but it does provide a habitat for trout that are of eating size. If you try the fishing here, you are sure to be successful.

Unless you are a hardy individual and are traveling with companions, it is advisable to return to Snowslide Gulch via the same route you followed on the way to Emerald Lake. Remember that the trails in the East Fork country were demolished by avalanches and rockslides during the winters of 1983 and 1985 and travel in the East Fork area is very difficult.

Pole Creek and Environs

Travel in the area east of the East Fork tributaries is best accomplished by driving to Pole Creek Ranger Station, which is located 16 miles south of the Rogerson-Three Creek road. To reach Pole Creek, drive down the Jarbidge River and east to Murphy Hot Springs. Then go up the hill to the blacktop and proceed to the sign just west of Three Creek school.

At this point, you should be looking at your Elk Mountain, Nevada-Idaho topographic map. It shows, in Sec. 6, T47N, R60E, the road that turns south from the Rogerson-Three Creek road and leads to Pole Creek Ranger Station.

The road south from the paved highway is surfaced with gravel and is in good condition. It crosses a broad valley and long, gentle slopes before reaching an elevation of 8190 feet near the ranger station. There it branches off to the west.

If you wish to see the ranger station, you should turn right at this location; visitors are always welcome. The rangers are acquainted with the countryside and can be of great help by providing information about trail conditions or giving directions.

Continuing south past the Pole Creek turnoff, the road again forks, this time to the east. Stay to the right and follow the road uphill. It goes right beside the Wilderness boundary for about three miles to a place just beyond BM 9223 in Sec. 36, T46N, R59E, stopping at the boundary fence.

The end of the road here is adjacent to some mature subalpine firs which are worthy of a photograph. To the southeast a short distance can be seen a stand of limber pines with their long, light-green needles and brown bark contrasting with the yellowing summer grass. A short walk along the road (which does continue beyond the fence but is obviously not to be driven on by vehicles) will bring you to a rocky promontory high above the canyons of Slide Creek and God's Pocket Creek.

Sitting on this ridge listening to the wind as it blows through the knee-high grass and contemplating the immense canyon of the East Fork and its tributaries is worth the trip to this remote place. The entire Jarbidge Range and all its craters can be seen on the western horizon. God's Pocket Peak and the Camp Creek-Mary's River country can be seen to the southwest---truly spectacular!

To appreciate more fully this marvelous East Fork region, you should retrace your route; going back north along the Wilderness boundary to a road that goes through the fence and on toward the west. Following this road for about two miles will bring you to the head of Robinson Creek. Just beyond a cattle guard, the road branches to the left and crosses the meadow to a stand of fir trees. From the meadow you get an unsurpassed view of Biroth Ridge, the highest part of the remnants of the Snake River Plains which can be seen far away on the northern horizon.

The stand of fir trees at the south end of the meadow above Robinson Creek is a fine camping place. If you are not driving a 4-WD vehicle, you will want to stop here and walk up the road to its end. There, right at the edge of the forest, you will enjoy a breathtaking view of Slide Creek and the canyon of the East Fork.

A Last Word About Backpacking in the Jarbidge Area

If you are contemplating a trip to the Jarbidge area for the purpose of backpacking in the Wilderness, I recommend that you find out about snowfall amounts for the winter preceding your trip. If light snowfall had been experienced, you could plan an earlier starting date, say late June or early July. If heavy snows had visited the area, it would be advisable to wait until middle or late August. Information about weather conditions for the winter (snowfall amounts) can be obtained easily by calling or writing to the U. S. Forest Service office in Buhl, Idaho. That office ministers to the Jarbidge area and the rangers in Buhl always know what is happening in Jarbidge. The address and telephone number of the Forest Service office in Buhl are given here for your convenience.

U. S. Forest Service
Jarbidge Ranger District
P. O. Box 508
Buhl, ID 83316

Telephone: 1-208-543-4129

Once you have experienced the relaxing atmosphere of Jarbidge town, thrilled to the unforgettable visual treasures of the mountains and streams, or walked through the silent forests of this magnificient land that few have heard about and even fewer have seen, I am certain that you will agree with me and say:

I'D RATHER BE IN JARBIDGE!

AFFIDAVIT BY THE CITIZENS OF JARBIDGE

After the Jarbidge Wilderness was established in 1964 the Forest Service began creating a buffer zone around it. One example of that buffer zone is the South Canyon Road up the Jarbidge River above the town of Jarbidge. Phil Joyal is 66 years old and he affirms that the road was in before he was born. That Road was developed by private parties without government help or interference. The Forest Service changed the original route. A few years after the area was designated Wilderness the road sluffed off and the Forest Service refused to reopen the road or to allow private individuals to reopen the road.

As a result of the closure of the road, which is just outside the present Wilderness, the older people of Jarbidge no longer are able to get to their favorite picnicking and camping area. Also hunters, woodgatherers and others have been adversely affected.

NTERS, ~~AND~~ WOOD[illegible], ... OTHERS HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

Philip E. Joyal	FEB. 1, 1986
Roy K. Moffett	Feb. 1, 1986
Aileen Joyal	Feb. 1, 1986
Norman Walthers	Feb. 1, 1986
Pearl Walthers	Feb. 1, 1986
James Bright	Feb. 1, 1986
Charlotte L. Bright	Feb 1, 1986
Jerry Stock	Feb 1, 1986
[illegible] Shelton	2-1-86
Mona Dodd	2-1-86
Virgil Dodd	2-1-86
Glenn Martin Jr	2/1/86
Ann Patton	2/1/86
Bob Barton	2/1/86
Russell Baird	2/1/86
Bob CAMBRIDGE	"
[illegible]	2-1-86
Eileen M. Cambridge	2-1-86
Ray M[illegible]	2-1-86

JARBIDGE CITIZENS FOR MULTIPLE USE

A non-profit organization
Formed February, 1986

PURPOSE: To promote multiple use of the Forest Service and BLM lands in the vicinity of Jarbidge and to oppose further designation of those lands as wilderness without direct contact with the sponsors involved.

GENERAL: Over the past serveral years various agencies have been involved in studies and actions which directly involve the land surrounding Jarbidge. Most recently are proposals involving additional Wilderness. Except for visits from our Jarbidge Ranger District, we have yet to have anyone spare us the time or courtesy of coming to Jarbidge and letting us express our opinions and concerns. Instead meetings are held at inconvenient times and locations and there is a limit to the number of meetings individuals can attend and the letters they can write. Accordingly by default decisions are made which often are not compatible with the interests of Jarbidge.

INTENT: By acting as a Groupwe intend to study proposals which affect our area and see that positive inputs reach the proposing agency. Toward this end we will put pressure to bear to insure that Senior people in charge of specific land use proposals which affect Jarbidge come to Jarbidge and and hear us out. We would than present our positive objections or concurrences whichever be the case.

CONCLUSION We subscribe to the above statement of purpose and intent.

Philip E. Joyal
Hugh C. Patton
Ann Patton
Betty Williams
[illegible]
[illegible] Cambridge
John S. Williams

Norman F. Walthers
Pearl Walthers

TESTIMONY OF PHILIP E. JOYAL (COL. USAF RET) AT NEVADA WILDERNESS HEARING CONDUCTED BY SENATOR HECHT AT LAS VEGAS, NEV ON 14 FEB. 1986

Senator Hecht;

I appreciate the opportunity to speak concerning proposals for additional wilderness areas in Nevada. I am speaking for myself and the Residents of Jarbidge who have authorized me to speak in their behalf. I was born and raised in Jarbidge and I know the area well. After spending 28 years in the U.S. Air Force I retired and returned to Elko County and subsequently moved back to Jarbidge where my wife and I have been living for the past 17 years.

Concerning Wilderness, it is the consensus in Jarbidge that there is absolutely no need for additional wilderness in the Jarbidge Area. The current Wilderness is more than adequate and can accomodate use by a great many more than use it now.

A significant fact is that I have talked to small groups of three or four who were preparing to back pack into our wilderness area; and upon learning that there was another group in ahead of them, they became quite agitated. They were extremely disappointed that they were not going to have the area to themselves.

Senator Hecht, I can appreciate the desire for solitude but I cannot accept restricting an area just so a very few can be alone. And this is happening in the proposed expansion of current Wilderness. I submit that there is plenty of room for those who wish to be alone, not only in the present designated wilderness but in much of the area surrounding. Sure one might have to cross a Jeep or wood road occasionaly or maybe even a snowmobile trail, but there is plenty of room off of the beaten path for solitude. It does not have to have the "magic" designation of Wilderness.

We, in the Jarbidge area, do not object to a reasonable approach to some Wilderness expansion. But we ask that people officially making proposals come in to the areas concerned and, face to face, get the reactions and inputs from the people who are directly concerned. Except for these hearings, in the case of Jarbidge, it has not happened. We understand that Congressman Reid, speaking in Reno on Feb 13, gave the impression that he had stopped off during an earlier helicopter flight. NOT SO.

Based on a realistic appraisal, we could support the Hecht, Laxalt, Vucannovich Bill with two significant changes. They are:

a. The Jarbidge River Watershed, south of Snowslide Gulch, should be excluded from the proposal and should not be denied us by the questionable expedient of designating it as a "Buffer Zone. This an ideal recreational area for use by families and the general public. In 197o the Forest Service, in their wisdom, chose to allow this road to be closed and would not reopen it in spite of the repeated, urgent requests by the residents of Jarbidge. I can remember driving over this road with my folks in the mid-1920's. At that time there was a sawmill near Perkins Cabin and a mining operation beyond that.

WILDERNESS HEARING TESTIMONY BY PHILIP E. JOYAL (CONT-)

b. Also the Bear Creek watershed, where it is encompassed by the proposal should be excluded from Wilderness recommendation. It is the origin of the Jarbidge Water Supply and should be left open for future access when required. It serves no useful purpose as far as Wilderness designation is concerned.

In the short time alloted there is no way that I can cover all of the objections we have to additional wilderness. But I would like to make this point. I have heard many times that additional wilderness is being created for the "Greatest Good". Proponnets of wilderness expansion give all kinds of figures showing the numbers to whom the the added wilderness would be available. But, when you compare the numbers of those who actually come to walk in the wilderness against those who come to enjoy but who couldn!t (if we get carried away with additional wilderness) It doesn't even come close.

In closing I can confidently state that there are hundreds of hunters, fisherman and campers who come into our area from all over Nevada and who endorse our feelings in this matter. I regret that we lack the time money and organization to contact these people for their endorsements. However I am sure that your timely hearings have given you an indication along these lines. A public vote by Nevadans would bear me out.

I am taking the liberty to attach an Affidavit by Citizens Of Jarbidge made prior to my departure for the Las Vegas Hearing; and a statement of Purpose of "The Jarbidge Citizens For Multiple Use".

Thank You,
Philip E. Joyal
PHILIP E. JOYAL
COL. USAF RET.
Box 95
Jarbidge, Nev 89826

January 31, 1986

Senator Chic Hecht
300 Booth Street
Suite 2014
Reno, NV 89502

RE: SB S722

Senator Hecht
Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Roberta Skelton, I reside at 641 Juniper Street, Elko, Nevada, with my husband. Our telephone number is 702-738-5671. We also own a home in Jarbidge.

My topic of concern will be to address the expansion of certain proposed boundary areas of the Jarbidge Wilderness.

I have written to the Congressional Delegation prior to this hearing and philosophically my position has not changed. I personally am not in favor of any Wilderness Area expansion, however, if a compromise has to be taken, I will support the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich-Bill.

Presently, I serve on the Jarbidge Water Users Association, Jarbidge Community Hall Fund, Inc., The Elko County Association for Retarded Children, and the Elko County Road Committee. The reason I mention these particular associations is they tie into wilderness. The Jarbidge water supply forms at the head waters of Bear Creek which appears to lie in part of the proposed wilderness expansion. Therefore, the line must be withdrawn to exclude this water resource to the Community of Jarbidge.

The Jarbidge Community Hall fund, Inc., was incorporated to restore and preserve certain historical sites within the Jarbidge townsite and beyond. Perkin's cabin, for instance, is now unattainable due to the fact the Forest Service will not allow re-opening of the South Canyon Road.

Jarbidge, Nevada, has not been mentioned in the public hearing that I can find throughout the state, however, this Community stands to lose more in the way of wilderness than many areas of the state. Jarbidge as a gold mining town was discovered around 1907 and has the distinction of having the last horse drawn stage robbery of the mine payroll in Nevada.

Jarbidge still has mining activity going. The surrounding terrain has heavy mineralization in much of the present wilderness which then would affect any additional wilderness proposal request.

Ranching, hunting, fishing, mining, and snowmobiling will all be affected by this proposed expansion, and to the detriment of our older population and the handicapped. The Board of Directors for Retarded Citizens, of which I am President, serves a population of 35 clients all in need of supervision, and motorized transportation is afforded to those clients for outdoor recreation such as fishing, skiing, tobogganing, and snowmobiling. In some areas where they are used to going such as the Jarbidge Coon Creek, Lamoille Canyon, and other areas will impair their usuage as the proposal stands now. Do they understand? Yes they do.

For instance, the south end of the Jarbidge Canyon has purposely been blocked by the United States Forest Service, which I have alluded to previously in this testimony. The Forest Service has refused to re-open this canyon road for approximately two to three miles. The road is in need of a bridge at Snowslide Gulch. And, with a cat and some smoothing over with a patrol, this then will allow folks to enjoy the historic and scenic area along with camping,fishing, snowmobiling, and hunting. I have a copy of Senator Hecht's reply to our Jarbidge postmaster and to Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Fawcett. In the Senator's reply, I would offer this quote to him by the United States Forest Service. "With regard to the road closure, the Forest Service has informed me that the South Canyon Road is not well designed and requires frequent and expensive repairs in order to maintain it safely. As funds are not available for the necessary repairs, the road remains closed. South Canyon Road is included in portions of the wilderness proposals, and the outcome of the of the wilderness issue may affect the reopening of the road. I appreciate your making me aware of this concern, and I will be sure to keep it in mind as we continue to work on wilderness legislation."

This is in effect being used as a "buffer zone" by the wilderness proposal to protect the "Pristine Effect."

Another area of grave concern is the proposed line along Fox Creek, Pine Creek coming southwest into the Jarbidge Canyon and on the east slope of Fox Creek and Pine Creek Peaks. This proposed wilderness line also bumps along the Jarbidge-Charleston Summit Road between Coon Summit and Bear Creek Summit.

These areas are prime areas for skiing, hunting, snowmobiling, summer wood gathering and general sightseeing for those folks not into hiking or backpacking, but can go by motorized vehicle over wood roads in existance since 1908-1910. This also could very easily take in the Jarbidge Water Supply.

I like to think of Jarbidge as a place of history to go and enjoy, abide by the laws we presently have on the books, let those of us go fishing at the south end of the canyon or go up on top of Coon or Bear Creek at midnight in the winter by snowmobiles.

In conclusion, we, yes we, will take care of our land as conservationist as we too look ahead and lookout for our future generations. We do not need to lock up land into wilderness.

The cougar, the coyote, the badger, deer, fish, and chukar, will be there as long as those of us here in this room practice conservation and see that those who do not are given their just dues. So lets work together for a healthier America and keep the land in a multiple purpose use.

Thank you for allowing me this time.

cc: Congressman Harry Reid
1530 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Barbara F. Vucanovich
312 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

443 5th Street
Elko, NV 89801

Senator Paul Laxalt
323 A. Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

5

Senator Paul Laxalt
300 Booth Street
Reno, NV 89502

Governor Richard Bryan
State Capitol Building
Carson City, NV 89710

Ernie Hall, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Elko County Court House
Elko, NV 89801

RESOLUTION OF JARBIDGE CITIZENS

July 27, 1986

WHEREAS upon many occasions during the past several years the residents of Jarbidge have repeatedly requested the United States Forest Service to re-open the road in the South Canyon of the Jarbidge River and,

WHEREAS the United States Forest Service has refused to re-open the road or allow the Citizens of Jarbidge to re-open the road and,

WHEREAS this area is not in the present Wilderness and,

WHEREAS the Jarbidge residents are not in favor of further encroachment by the the Federal Government the Sierra Club, or any other "Environmentalist" group.

BE it Resolved that the citizens of Jarbidge are hereby requesting the Elko County Commission to take action to help re-open the road and,

BE it further Resolved that the County of Elko should not only be supportive, but monetarily involved by suppling equipment and supplies and,

BE it further Resolved that the citizens of Jarbidge will supply man power and donations to such cause in order for the South Canyon road to again be re-opened to afford access for wood gathering, picnicing, scenic travel, hunting, prospecting, snowmobiling, fishing, camping, and access for persons whom may be impaired or otherwise not able to visit the area, and preserve certain historical sites regarding the history of Jarbidge.

7-27-86

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	ADDRESS
Name		
Roberta Skelton	Roberta Skelton	Jarbidge NV
Delma Andreozzi	Delma Andreozzi	Elko, NV.
	Shawn Murphy	Jarbidge NV.
Joe Stocks	Joe STocks	Jarbidge NV.
Dirk Adams	Dirk AdAMS	DBA C-Tan Corp. Jarbidge Nevada Moab, Utah
Glen Thayne	Glen Thayne	DBA C-Tan Corp. Jarbidge NV Moab, Utah
Don L Braithwaite	Don L Braithwaite	miner in JarBidge JarBidge, Nev
Steve Cambridge	STEVE CAMBRIDGE	JARBIDGE NV
Charlotte L Bright	Charlotte L Bright	Jarbidge, Nev
Stuart W. Whitney	STUART W. WHITNEY	Box 50 JarBidge Nev.
Jerry Stocks	JERRY STOCKS	Jarbidge Box 74
J Bright	JAMES BRIGHT	Jarbidge Box 52
William Rixey	WILLIAM RIXEY	Jarbidge, Nev.
Harvey A Bellon	KANAB UT Harvey R Bellon	TOURIST Concerned and wanted to see this part of the country
Linda Braithwaite	LINDA BRAITHWAITE	JARBIDGE NV
Phillip Stocks	Phillip Stocks	Moab UT
Jack Corbin	Cindy Corbin	JARBIDGE NV.
Robert Renier	Robert Renier	Jarbidge Nevada
George Atwell	North Fork.	
Jacqulyne R. Gilliam	Jacqulyne R. Gilliam	Elko, Nev.

PETITION TO OPEN ROAD

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	ADDRESS
Ann Patton	ANN PATTON	P.O. Box 73 JARBIDGE, NEV 89826
Norman Walthers	NORMAN WALTHERS	Bx 76 Jarbidge Nev
Earl Trousdale	Earl Trousdale	Jarbidge NV
Pearl Walthers	Pearl Walthers	Jarbidge, Nev
Hugh a Patton	Hugh a Patton	Jarbidge, Nv
Jeanne R. Mathias	JEANNE R. MATHIAS	JARBIDGE, NV
D E Mathias	Donald E. Mathias	Jarbidge, NV
Eileen M Cambridge	Eileen M. CAMBRIDGE	Jarbidge, Nv
Roy K. Mobert	Roy K Mobert	Jarbidge, Nevada
Judy Mobert	Judy Mobert	Jarbidge Nevada
Galen Rackley	Galen Rackley	P.O. Box 2104 Elko, NV.
Joel A Vega	Joel Vega	ELKO, NEV.
Howard R Wright	HOWARD R. Wright	P.O 908 CARLIN NEV 89822
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Susanna C. Heil	SUSANNA C. Heil	JARBIDGE, Nev.
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Charles O. Confer	Charles O. Confer	JARBIDGE, NEV
Rey Nystrom	REY NYSTROM	JARBIDGE, N
Darren Skelton	Darren Skelton	ELKO, NV.

STATEMENT OF WESTERN OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION
CONCERNING S.1138 "NEVADA WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT OF 1987"
FILED FOR THE HEARING RECORD WITH THE U. S. SENATE ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS AUGUST 4, 1987

WASHINGTON, D. C.

This is the statement of Western Oil and Gas Association. The Association is a petroleum industry trade organization whose member companies produce, transport, market and refine crude oil, natural gas and associated hydrocarbon substances in the Western United States. Principal offices of the Association are in Los Angeles, California.

The federal government controls nearly all of Nevada's land area (87%). Thus, public land management decisions have a more direct effect on the State's economic health than is true in most other states. As a highly restrictive land classification, wilderness eliminates multiple use possibilities, such as grazing and mineral exploration, which can make a contribution to a State's economy without damage to the land.

But the question posed by S.1138 and other Nevada Wilderness bills before the Senate and House is not whether there should be wilderness, but rather, where and how much. To these questions we add a third, at what cost?

Of the four bills we have reviewed, (H.R. 708, H.R. 2044, H.R. 2142 and S. 1138), we prefer H.R. 708 because it designates less land as "wilderness". However, while we oppose S. 1138, it would become less objectionable by deletion of two areas; Grant Range and Quinn Canyon. It is interesting to note that the Forest Service made no wilderness recommendation for Quinn Canyon. Perhaps they realized that along with the Grant Range the area is of particular interest for oil and gas exploration as well as having potential other multiple uses. We cannot overlook existing production in the Grant Canyon Field where two wells are producing in excess of 5,000 barrels of high gravity crude per day. This existing production presages what promises to be a major exploration effort in Nevada before the turn of the century. To slam the door on this possibility, by smothering the area with a Wilderness classification, is to deny Nevadans the economic boost this exploration effort will offer.

Quinn Canyon was not recommended for wilderness status by the Forest Service nor was it included, along with Grant Range, in Senator Reid's initial version of S. 1138. Why was it reinstated in S. 1138 in the face of high exploration interest and several major producing oil and gas wells? Why can't the land be fully explored for oil and gas and hard minerals? Geophysical surveys, leasing, exploration, drilling, transportation and ultimately increased production will, if allowed, generate millions of dollars for the federal government and the State of Nevada through rentals, royalties, salaries and and purchase of goods and services in support of exploration and development.

The wilderness areas we discuss today are merely the dropping of the first shoe. Bureau of Land Management wilderness proposals are next, then the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Park Service. At some point we need to consider how much wilderness is enough? It has been demonstrated that wilderness generates few tourist dollars. It has been proven, since enactment of the Wilderness Act more than 20 years ago, that wilderness status increases the chance of forest damage by infestation and uncontrollable forest fires. In short the concept has proven costly to administer, while not preserving the status quo or providing a financial return. Despite man's conceit that land can be preserved "as is" by administrative fiat, time and the elements work their changes. A balanced multiple use sustained yield approach would seem preferable, particularly in a State forced to maintain an economy with a land base of only 13% of total acreage.

We strongly urge that prior to taking action on S. 1138 or any other Nevada Wilderness bill, the Subcommittee Staff meet with representatives from the resource industries to consider reduction in the size and number of wilderness areas for Nevada. If not, at least eliminate Grant Range and Quinn Canyon from further consideration as wilderness. We stand ready to provide fully qualified representatives for such a meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

STATEMENT

of

AMOCO PRODUCTION COMPANY

on
S.1138
NEVADA WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT

submitted to the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNTIED STATES SENATE

Amoco Production Company, a subsidiary of Amoco Corporation, appreciates the opportunity to comment on S.1138, the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1987. As a member of the oil and gas industry and an active explorer in the region affected by this proposed legislation, Amoco Production Company is very concerned over eliminating access to public lands for exploration and development.

The future exploration in Nevada could well be directed towards the Mountain Ranges and related areas proposed for wilderness designation. At the very least, certain critical outcrop data is only available in various ranges and establishment of those ranges as a wilderness area would severely limit our ability to understand the potential of those areas. The fact that a successful oil and gas well has yet to be drilled in these Mountain Ranges has not diminished Amoco's commitment towards further exploration. Industry as a whole has yet to fully evaluate the geologic potential of the Mountain Ranges.

Amoco Production Company has concentrated the majority of its activity in Nevada in the valley areas. However, industry is expanding exploration activity outside the valley areas as evidenced by Exxon's establishment of a Development Contract in the Pinion Range area. Amoco currently does not have an acreage position in the Mountain Ranges however, as a result of our exploratory efforts, in which we have expended in excess of $21,000,000 for oil and gas leases, seismic acquisition and test wells, we consider the Mountain Ranges a potential source for hydrocarbons. Although the amount of money expended by Amoco to date is considerable, it is a fraction of the monetary resources necessary to fully explore these highly complex geologic areas. The expenditures are indicative of Amoco's present and future commitment to the region.

The land management policy presently in place, more than adequately protect the areas' surface resources from harm. Existing statutes, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Forest Management Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and attendant regulations, provide comprehensive and protective guidelines for various resource values located on Federal lands.

The statutes and regulations are enunciated through the agency(s) planning process which result in management criteria for issuing Federal oil and gas leases. The resulting stipulations are then developed by the agency(s) responsible for managing environmentally sensitive areas and resource values. After a plan of operations is submitted for leasehold activity, a more comprehensive environmental analysis is initiated by the appropriate federal agency(s). This analysis is devoted to resolving those issues identified in the stipulations, as well as concerns raised by the public, local governments and other Federal agencies. An EA (Environmental Assessment) and/or EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) is often the final product generated by this comprehensive process.

The EA or EIS serve to harmonize the divergent views identified by the evaluation process, enabling oil and gas activities to co-exist with prudent management of environmentally sensitive resource values. If, in the view of the reviewing agency, the proposed mitigating measures fail to ameliorate the perceived environmental harm, the agency(s) retains the authority to issue a no action alternative or denial of operation. This is tantamount to prohibiting oil and gas operations in environmentally sensitive areas. Amoco advocates this balanced approach of restricting the time, place, and manner of oil and gas exploration in environmentally sensitive areas as opposed to strict prohibition against any exploration. The environment is more than adequately protected so that areas' oil and gas productivity can be tested prior to wilderness designation.

Exhibit "A" contains a list of proposed Wilderness Areas that Amoco has identified as possessing probable rather than possible hydrocarbon potential. Therefore, we urge the Congress not to designate these lands as wilderness until they have been adequately tested.

The economic downturn in the oil and gas industry has had a severe impact on that portion of our exploration budget that Amoco can presently commit to evaluating the frontier regions affected by this legislation. Nonetheless, our past investment in the area, both in time and capital, best approximates our future commitment. To invest in oil and gas exploration is a decision driven by economics rather than legislation. Oil and natural gas prices must stabilize to the point where it is again feasible to invest in these high risk areas. When that occurs, Amoco will be well positioned to make as rapid an assessment as possible of the areas' oil and gas potential. In the meantime, it is urged that this nation not foreclose prospective natural resource development by prematurely designating these wilderness areas.

Please make this document a part of the record for the August 4, 1987, hearing on S.1138.

Thank you for considering our comments.

NEVADA
STATE RIFLE AND PISTOL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 640, Minden, NV 89423

NEVADA
STATE RIFLE AND
PISTOL ASSN.

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

7/28/87

Dear Senator Reid:

I am writing to you, in my office as President of the Nevada State Rifle and Pistol Association, and in behalf of our entire membership. I can assure you, Senator, that if these wilderness hearings were held in the State of Nevada, you would hear many supporters of the viewpoint which I am about to present by my representative. It is regrettable that this hearing is not held among those very people affected by your pending legislation, rather than in the uncaring atmosphere of Washington.

Our organization is certainly pro-use of our lands in every sense of the word--use, but not abuse. We feel that every citizen of the United States, and not just a favored few, should have the opportunity to see our great state. We feel that, should your bill pass, many people would be deprived of the lands that they are now entitled to use. They would be deprived unless they were the favored minority who happen to be privileged to own horses, or have the time away from their employment to be able to walk into the lands which would otherwise be deprived these taxpayers who are our members. Also, I would like to call your attention to that unfortunate segment of our community who, through age or infirmity caused by physical disabilities, are unable to reach these lands denied them by this legislation.

In addition, just now, when the Desert Bighorn Sheep has made a dramatic comeback from endangered species status, (enough so that it can now be hunted, although in a very limited sense), your bill would deny these majestic animals as well as other species the very water sources needed to allow them to thrive in the harsh desert environment. The game management which has been so successfully practiced for many years in the State of Nevada would now go for nought. The Fraternity of The Desert Bighorn would, under your bill, not be allowed to maintain the watering places that allow these animals to live.

We are also concerned of the possibility that hunters, some of whom may be from out of state, and not knowing the possible dangers of desert and mountain, could, in unwise quest of game, inadvertently place themselves in personal jeopardy. Even now, when judicious use of vehicles is allowed, very seldom does a hunting season pass where some unwary hunter doesn't get lost, or otherwise need the

NEVADA
STATE RIFLE AND PISTOL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 640, Minden, NV 89423

transportation afforded by some type of wheeled vehicle. Indeed, not only the hunter, but the fisherman and hiker can conceivably be facing the same problems.

In addition, the average hunter, burdened with several days provisions, would find it very difficult, on foot, to successfully retrieve a deer or other large animal which he has been fortunate enough to bring to bag. A deer can easily weigh 100 lbs. dressed--an elk, possibly as much as 400 lbs. It would surely be a shame to make such a successful hunter have to choose between his own survival, (by means of needing to walk out unburdened) and leaving his hard-sought game behind to rot--a total waste.

Certainly, in a state the size of ours, there is room for all types of land recreation. I would therefore ask that you consider how many people can be GUARANTEED the use of the land under your bill. I would further ask you to consider the needs of the 50,000 plus hunters that last year saw fit to buy licenses in our state, and who were able to use their licenses in their due time mainly because they had the ability to get where the game was in a timely manner, and because the game was afield due to good game management policies. Let us not forget the 100,000 people who were able to enjoy fishing in our state, many of whom would be affected by this legislation.

Good game management abounds here as well as in the United States as a whole. There are more deer, for example, today than there were in the year 1900. I would hasten to tell you that this is because of the co-operative effort of the American Sportsman working hand in glove, with his license money,(and sometimes directly), with local game management people. One has only to read of the exploration parties (Donner, Lewis and Clark, Fremont, etc.) in the early days of western expansion who nearly starved for lack of wild game to realize that we are better provided with food animals than ever before.

Therefore, I respectfully suggest that your plans for "wilderness areas" certainly not be abandoned, but be modified to more nearly approximate the numbers and proportions of those people who will be using them in each category--hunters, fishermen, off-roaders, hikers, etc. I believe that a further study can by casual inspection be shown necessary, and that those persons who would be able to utilize a truly "wilderness area" are a very vocal minority,

NEVADA
STATE RIFLE AND PISTOL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 640, Minden, NV 89423

and definitely a small, special interest group.

Thank you and members of the committee for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
William H. Glaze
William H. Glaze, President
Nevada Rifle & Pistol Assn.

Public Lands Council
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Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 347-5355

National Cattlemen's Association
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(5420 South Quebec Street)
Englewood, Colorado 80155
(303) 694-0305

National Wool Growers Association
Suite 200
#10 Lakeside Lane
Denver, Colorado 80212
(303) 455-0991

TESTIMONY

submitted by the

PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL

NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

and

NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

before the

United States Senate Energy and Natural
Resources Subcommittee on
Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests

August 4, 1987

on

S. 1138

The Nevada Wilderness Protection Act

The Public Lands Council represents the 27,000 western ranchers who graze cattle and sheep on federal lands in 13 western states, and is also supported by the National Cattlemen's Association, National Woolgrowers Association, and the Association of National Grasslands. The National Cattlemen's Association is a non-profit trade association representing approximately 230,000 professional cattlemen throughout the nation, including individual members, 48 affiliated state cattle associations, and 23 affiliated national breed organizations. The National Wool Growers Association is a non-profit trade association representing approximately 115,000 wool and sheep producers and 34 state and regional sheep associations.

The Public Lands Council, National Cattlemen's Association, and National Wool Growers Association appreciate this opportunity to testify on S. 1138, the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act, introduced by Senator Harry Reid of Nevada.

PLC, NCA, and NWGA's general position on wilderness is simple. Our organizations support the multiple use management concept on federal lands, and generally oppose congressional or administrative designations such as wilderness that withdraw lands from traditional multiple use management.

We believe that traditional multiple use management benefits local economies and society as a whole in many ways, providing jobs, timber, energy, water, food and fiber from livestock grazing, wildlife and fisheries, recreation, and many other benefits. We disagree with those who suggest that wilderness boils down to an either-or proposition - that we can either protect an area via wilderness designation or it will be ruined through development. While certain outstanding areas may merit wilderness designation, the vast majority of public lands can and should be managed for both responsible resource development and environmental protection through the land use planning process.

Our associations have adopted wilderness resolutions which we would like to submit for the hearing record. Generally the public lands livestock industry supports the following: only the designation of lands that truly meet the criteria in the Wilderness Act of 1964; release language; the use by livestock permittees of motorized equipment in wilderness to care for livestock and improvements; increased grazing where range conditions permit;

allowance for future grazing on inactive allotments; and the preparation of an economic impact statement for areas studied or recommended as wilderness.

Perhaps most importantly, PLC, NCA, and NWGA oppose any wilderness legislation such as S. 1138 until such time as it recognizes state water rights and provides that the wilderness areas are not subject to the judicial doctrine of federal reserved water rights. The issue of federal reserved water rights for wilderness areas has come into sharp focus as the result of the 1985 decision by Federal District Court Judge Kane in Sierra Club v. Block. Judge Kane ruled that a new federal reserved water right is created by the designation of wilderness. In the west, this threatens to cause wholesale disruption of our century-old "first in time, first in right" state water rights system. Judge Kane's decision essentially overturns 150 years of Congressional deference to western water law and says the federal government does not have to acquire water according to the state water rights system -- the government automatically has the water simply because the land is designated wilderness.

PLC, NCA, and NWGA believe that unless Congress overrules the Kane decision, wilderness areas will be granted new federal reserved water rights in direct conflict with water rights established under state laws. More than 200 million acres of federal lands have been designated or are being considered for wilderness. PLC and NCA believe that the federal government has no implied right to water as a result of wilderness designation, but must establish any right to use water for wilderness purposes just like any other user, within the framework of state water law, so that existing water rights are not diminished or destroyed. We believe these fundamental principles should be clearly stated in federal law before this or any additional wilderness legislation is enacted.

In addition, an NCA Water Task Force recently developed and prioritized NCA's overall water policy. Federal reserved water rights in wilderness emerged as NCA's top water priority, and the Task Force developed the following specific language which NCA urges be included in all wilderness bills: "No provisions of this Act or any other act of Congress designating areas as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, nor any guidelines, rules or regulations issued thereunder, shall constitute the establishment of an express or implied right to the acquisition, diversion, appropriation, use or flow of water to the federal government because of the designation except in full compliance with states' water laws."

Finally, PLC, NCA, and NWGA support the testimony provided by the Nevada Cattlemen's Association and Nevada Wool Growers Association.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on S. 1138.

WILDERNESS AREAS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Cattlemen's Association believes that any wilderness legislation passed by Congress should:

1. Designate as wilderness only those lands that meet the criteria specified in the Wilderness Act of 1964.
2. Not designate as wilderness those areas which have been gerrymandered by excluding nonwilderness corridors which contain roads.
3. Contain appropriate language releasing study lands not designated as wilderness to management under normal multiple-use principles.
4. Allow livestock permittees to use motorized-mechanized equipment in Wilderness Areas to promptly and economically care for livestock, range or water improvements, fences, etc., and to provide for predator control.
5. Recognize state water rights and provide that the wilderness areas are not subject to the doctrine of Federal reserved water rights.
6. Allow for increased grazing in Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas when range conditions permit.
7. Specify that currently inactive or vacant allotments indicate that grazing has been previously "established" within the meaning and intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and that grazing on such allotments within Wilderness Areas can resume when range or economic conditions permit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCA opposes any wilderness legislation until such time as the question of reserved water rights on Federal lands is resolved.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

WILDERNESS - ECONOMIC IMPACT

Adopted at a Meeting of the

PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL

Kansas City, Missouri

January 22, 1979

WHEREAS, Federal agencies have taken the position that it is not necessary to prepare an economic impact statement for areas designated as wilderness or as wilderness study areas; and,

WHEREAS, Wilderness and wilderness study areas do have social and economic impacts on local communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Wilderness Act be amended to require that an economic impact statement be prepared for any area identified, or under study, by any federal agency as potential wilderness; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That such as economic impact statement include a statement by the Governor of the state in which any such area is located to be that state's assessment of the economic impact; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Public Lands Council recommend that the state Governors and state legislators formally and publicly express their support of such legislation; and,

BE IT DIRECTED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of each state, the leadership of each state legislature, and appropriate members of the U. S. Congress.

To: The Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests

Regarding: The hearing on S1138

It is my understanding you are currently holding hearings on proposed wilderness status for Forest Service Lands in the state of Nevada. I have lived in this state for more than twenty years. One of my children was born here and the rest have lived here most of their lives. We all feel it important to preserve some remnants of the open spaces and wide vistas which are characteristic of the western United States in general and Nevada in particular. It is important for practical as well as aesthetic reasons. Once these areas are violated by development of any sort we have lost a precious resource available as a guide in determining management of developing lands. With this in mind I commend the inclusion in the present bill of such areas as the Grant Range which were not present in previous forms of the bill and strongly recommend the following additions:

1. The Santa Rosas this area is close enough to such urban areas as Reno and Sparks that it is possible to explore them on a one day expedition. I visited them during the helicopter tour last year and was impressed with their variety--impressive rock formations, small ponds and streams, little birch and fir forests, all in an area rising sharply above high desert plains. As a former 4-H leader I respect the needs of local ranchers for grazing land and adequate water so I spoke to some local ranchers while I was there and asked them how they felt about wilderness status for this area. Their response was they had opposed the large area originally considered for wildeness status but the area finally proposed was no threat to them. In fact they felt it was the wisest possible use of the land.

2. The north and south Twin drainage of Arc Dome--it makes no sense to omit this area from the Arc Dome Wilderness. There is no true development, threatened by inclusion of the two drainage regions.

3. The Mt Rose area-- This area should include the 3000 acres adjoining the south border recently recommended for inclusion by the Forest Service Tahoe Basin Plan. It is included in the bills written by Representatives Darden and Bilbray and should be included in the Senate version as well. In addition the language in the bill preserving a portion of this wilderness for use by snowmobilers should be omitted. This exception violates the spirit of wilderness and is totally unnecessary. I have hiked and skied in this area. There is a large area reserved for snowmobiling directly across the highway from the proposed wilderness. This area is much more easily accessible to and appropriate for snowmobilers than is the wilderness area to the north. Due to the heavily wooded character and steep slopes of the wilderness region, opening this area to snowmobilers threatens both the tranquility and safety of snowshoe-hikers, campers and cross-country skiers.

Thankyou for your kind attention

Sincerely,

Terry Woodin
1835 Clearacre Lane
Reno, NV 89512

STATEMENT ON NEVADA WILDERNESS
U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, NAT'L FORESTS AND PARKS
August 4, 1987

My name is Kathleen Weaver, a resident of Douglas County, Nevada. As a Nevada resident, living in a rural county, I am strongly in favor of setting aside a small portion of our state's outstanding natural heritage for wilderness. Specifically, I support the Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposal. This proposal only comprises 2% of the state's total acreage, but represents most of the exceptional quality wilderness in the State.

I especially wanted to take this opportunity to be included in the official Congressional record since I was not permitted to speak at Senator Hecht's Reno wilderness hearing two years ago. Furthermore, many other folks didn't get a chance to speak due to the shortness of the hearing. Although we were all assured that written statements would be added to the record, upon checking the record recently, I discovered that my statement was not included, nor were some other folks who favored wilderness. It has occurred to me that perhaps these omissions were not accidental.

The Senator's office gleefully announced that "only" 43% of Nevadans who testified at the five or so hearings in Nevada favored more wilderness. By our count, close to 58% of the people who actually spoke in Reno supported more wilderness than the Senator's pathetically inadequate bill. Had more people been given the chance to testify, or had their written testimony been added to the record as promised, I suspect that the percentage would have been higher still.

This assertion is given further credence by the Nevada Division of State Parks' survey conducted in 1986. This scientifically conducted telephone survey of 2,050 Nevadans, entitled "Recreation in Nevada 1986," demonstrated that 73.9% of the state's citizens support wilderness. It is also important to note that although the strongest support was shown in the urban regions of the state (88% in Clark County, 82% in Reno and the surrounding area), a majority of citizens in all but one rural region (45.4% in Lincoln, White Pine and Eureka Counties) also supported wilderness.

Although I appreciate Senator Reid's efforts regarding passage of a Nevada wilderness bill, I am concerned about some of his bill'shortcomings. In particular, I'd like to see the following areas added to Senator Reid's bill:

1. Mt. Rose, Washoe County - Add 3,000 +/- acres in the Tahoe Basin (south end of proposed wilderness area) as proposed by the U.S. Forest Service.
2. Arc Dome, Nye County - Add at least 30,000 acres to include both forks of the South Twin River. The South Twin River area was deleted as a concession to a small mining operation that has little or no evidence of substantive mineral bodies in the area.
3. Santa Rosa Range, Humboldt County - This outstanding area was completely omitted from S1138.
4. Currant Range, White Pine and Nye County - This area was also omitted from S1138.

I appreciate the opportunity to relay my opinions, and trust that this statement will become part of the permanent record.

Kathleen Weaver
879 Coloma Drive
Carson City, NV 89701

Gail L. Townsend
P.O. Box 541
Sparks, Nevada 89432

July 31, 1987

To the Senate Subcommittee on
Public Lands, National Parks
and Forests

I am writing to ask the members of the subcommittee to support Nevada Wilderness. Please vote in favor of Senator Reid's bill and the additional lands recommended by Friends of Nevada Wildernes. FNW is asking that a very small percentage of Nevada be set aside and offered the highest protection allowed by law--Wilderness status. These lands are a unique resource worthy of preserving.

In this short letter I can't list all the reasons for my support of the wilderness. I will briefly discuss two out of the dozens I could have chosen.

A MAJORITY OF NEVADANS SUPPORT WILDERNESS PRESERVATTION

As a Vice-chairperson for Friends of Nevada Wilderness, I've spoken to many groups about Nevada's wilderness. I've talked to neighborhood groups, parents groups; people in shopping malls and people at work. I came prepared for arguments. But instead, I found people intereested in wilderness protection.

My own experience is mirrored by surveys compiled by state agencies. These show that a majority of Nevadans DO support wilderness. The support comes from all Nevadans--rural and urban, young and old, hunters and backpackers.

Support for wilderness is growing. Some members of FNW have been wilderness advocates for more than 25 years. Others, like myself, are just begining to speak up. As people ask questions and learn about the issues support for wilderness increases.

Nevadans are proud of their state. They want the unique beauty of Nevada protected for themselves and for the future.

ACCESS TO WILDERNESS

Opponents of wilderness don't want limits placed on their activities. Miners, ranchers and off-road enthusiasts often describe wilderness as an elitist playground for wealthy, athletic backpackers. They point out that roadless areas exclude the young, old and handicapped.

The question of access is the essence of the Wilderness Act. The purpose of the Act is to set aside and protect a certain portion of our federal lands which have not as yet been altered by human activity. And here "man is a visitor". Nature and not man will determine and alter the landscape.

The Wilderness Act sets priorities. The natural environment is to be protected and is the highest priority. Human desires, wants and needs are of lesser importance. These limits apply to all human activities. In wilderness areas where hikers degrade or threaten the environment, limits have been set on the numbers of people entering the area.

Limiting human use is the essential reason for my support of wilderness. I would like to see the Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposal become a reality for Nevada.

Sincerely,

Gail L. Townsend

U.S. Senate Subcommittee August 1, 1987
Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests

Members of the Subcommittee,

Thank you for your attention to the important issue of Wilderness in the State of Nevada. I thank Senator Reid for introduction of his Wilderness legislation, which includes several of the apecatular areas in this state. These are among the many fine examples of pristine public lands that Nevada can boast, and that are of lasting value to the people of the state and the nation as Wilderness.

Wilderness designation is the only way to ensure that these undamaged places will remain open for public use now and in the future. To eliminate them as public land by allowing single use would be a serious mistake and would rob this generation and those of the future. I strongly urge the Subcommittee to pass Wilderness legislation for Nevada including the most protective language and all the areas in Senator Reid's bill, with the following additions.

Senator Reid included much of the Arc Dome area in his bill, but omitted the South Fork of the Twin River area, an area that is as worthy of protection as any I know. Omission of this drainage is a serious mistake and would scar the Arc Dome wilderness forever. Conflicts are quite minor and the beauty of the drainage alone should make it clear to anyone that has been there that it definately must be included in any Wilderness bill. I sincerely hope the Subcommittee will not neglect its duty in regards to this part of the range.

In addition, the Mt. Rose proposal neglects an area of approximatly 3000 acres recommended by the Tahoe Basin Management Unit of the Forest Service as Wilderness. This area should be added to the proposed acreage. Also, the snowmobile corridor that bisects the Wilderness proposal should be eliminated, as it would seriously detract from the quiet of the area.

Senator Reid's legislation also omits three areas that are of excellent Wilderness value and most definatley should be included in a final bill: Currant Mountain, the Santa Rosas, and the Schell Peak range. All these areas rank with the ranges in the Senator's bill as beautiful, peaceful, remote mountains, well worthy of legal protection as Wilderness.

I encourage the members of the Subcommittee to pass strong and worthy Wilderness legislation for the State of Nevada. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Barbara Kelley
Barbara Kelley
1850 Van Ness Ave.
Reno, Nevada 89503